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September 30 – October 6, 2026

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Election guide inside



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Don't Worry, I'm Sure The Billionaires Have A Plan (*wink wink*)

Well, I didn't have "the world has a 10% chance of going from Orwellian society to straight-up dystopia within a decade" on my bingo card, but here we are.

And perhaps the part I understand the least is how casually the billionaire class seems to be carrying on as though nothing particularly unusual is happening. Just another day at the office. Another billion dollars here, another data center there. Nothing to see here, folks. Please continue shopping.

I mean, Hugging Face sounds cute and all. The irony almost writes itself.

At this point, it feels as though we've become hostages to a technological arms race we never agreed to participate in. The fight over data centers, their enormous appetite for electricity and water, and the consequences of allowing them to proliferate seems increasingly muted beneath the deafening roar of profit.

We are living in a time when altruism should be the shining star of human progress, yet somehow it keeps getting snuffed out by the sheer gravitational pull of greed.

And while ordinary people are being asked to accept the consequences—higher demands on our resources, environmental concerns, infrastructure strain, and an increasingly uncertain future—the people positioned to profit from all of it seem remarkably comfortable.

And then there is the president.

This is where the buck is supposed to stop.

Instead, we keep watching the administration cultivate increasingly cozy relationships with the very technology companies and billionaires who stand to make enormous fortunes from this transformation, while the public is left wondering where the guardrails are. Where is the urgency? Where is the demand that these companies prove they can build this future without making everyone else literally and figuratively pay the price for it?

A president does not have to be anti-technology to understand that technological progress without public protections is not automatically progress.

Our president has signed executive order, after executive order, after executive order. And executive orders mean very little if the underlying message to the most powerful corporations in the country is still: build first, ask questions later.

That is the part I find infuriating.

Because the federal government is not some helpless bystander watching this happen from the sidelines. It has

enormous power to establish standards, protect communities, enforce environmental safeguards, demand transparency, and determine who ultimately bears the costs of this technological expansion. Unless you're also enriching yourself too, because let's be real, that's all that matters to him and his ego.

If the administration chooses to prioritize access to capital, rapid development and the interests of technology giants over those protections, that is a political choice—not an inevitability.

And ordinary people have every right to question it.

Because apparently there is no problem so enormous that a billionaire cannot convince someone it is actually an opportunity.

And maybe that's what bothers me most.

It isn't simply that technology is advancing faster than our ability to understand its consequences. It's that the people driving the bus seem to have decided that everyone else can worry about where it's going.

At some point, you have to wonder whether we are still building a future for human beings—or merely building an increasingly sophisticated infrastructure for the people who already own everything.

Frankly, some days it feels like the endgame is for the rest of us to become collateral damage in somebody else's investment portfolio.

When people feel powerless, ignored and increasingly disposable, history has a pretty ugly way of reminding us what happens when desperation replaces hope. Does anyone remember Luigi Mangioni?

Because if the people with the most money, power and influence are truly convinced that everything is going just fine, maybe they should step outside their penthouses once in a while and take a look around.

The rest of us can see the smoke.

Please email me at lansingallstar@gmail.com

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CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN, INGHAM COUNTY
LEGAL AD NOTICE: NOTICE OF REGISTRATION
FOR THE NOVEMBER 3, 2026, GENERAL ELECITON

TO THE QUALIFIED ELECTORS OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN:

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that any qualified elector who is not already registered, may register to vote at the office of the Meridian Township Clerk; the office of the 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://m-vic.sos.state.mi.us/>. Registration forms may be obtained at mi.gov/vote and mailed or dropped off at the office of the Meridian Township 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 Meridian Township Clerk's Office is Monday, October 19, 2026. 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 location and times:

Meridian Township Clerk's Office - 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI 48864

- Regular Business Hours: Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
- Saturday, October 31st and Sunday, November 1st from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
- Election Day, Tuesday, November 3rd from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that Meridian Township will hold a General Election on Tuesday, November 3, 2026.

For the purposes of electing candidates for the following office:

- GOVERNOR AND LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR
- SECRETARY OF STATE
- ATTORNEY GENERAL
- UNITED STATES SENATOR
- REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS
- STATE SENATOR
- REPRESENTATIVE IN STATE LEGISLATURE
- MEMBER OF THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
- REGENT OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
- TRUSTEE OF MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY
- GOVERNOR OF WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY
- TOWNSHIP TREASURER
- JUSTICE OF SUPREME COURT
- JUDGE OF COURT OF APPEALS – 4TH DISTRICT – INCUMBENT POSITION
- JUDGE OF CIRCUIT COURT – 30TH CIRCUIT – INCUMBENT POSITION – 6 YEAR TERM
- JUDGE OF CIRCUIT COURT – 30TH CIRCUIT – INCUMBENT POSITION – PARTIAL TERM ENDING 01/01/2029
- JUDGE OF PROBATE COURT – INGHAM COUNTY
- JUDGE OF DISTRICT COURT – 55TH DISTRICT – INCUMBENT POSITION
- BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEMBER – LANSING COMMUNITY COLLEGE
- LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD MEMBER



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For the purposes of voting on the following proposals as listed below:

- PROPOSAL 2026-1 A PROPOSAL TO COVENE A CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION FOR THE PURPOSE OF DRAFTING A GENERAL REVISION OF THE STATE CONSTITUTION
- PROPOSAL 2026-2 A PROPOSED INITATED LAW TO PROHIBIT CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUCTIONS

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FROM CERTAIN REGULATED UTILITIES AND GOVERNMENT CONTRACTORS AND APPLY CAMPAIGN FINANCE LAWS AND REGULATIONS TO ADDITIONAL TYPES OF POLITICAL COMMUNICATIONS • CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN PARK MILLAGE RENEWAL

- CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN POLICE AND FIRE PROTECTION MILLAGE RENEWAL

The full text of the ballot proposals and sample ballots can be found at www.mi.gov/vote or can be viewed at the Meridian Township Clerk's Office, 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI 48864.

Persons with disabilities needing accommodations should contact the Clerk's Office.

ABSENT VOTER BALLOTS:

Any registered voter may request an Absent Voter Ballot. The Meridian Township 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 Meridian Township Clerk's Office.

Monday, November 2, 2026, at 4 pm is the deadline to request an absentee ballot in person, except for those who register to vote on Election Day. Those registering to vote on Election Day, November 3, 2026, are eligible to receive an Absent Voter Ballot at the Meridian Township Clerk's Office.

EARLY VOTING CENTER

All qualified electors in the Meridian Township Clerk's Office have the option to vote early in person, beginning Saturday, October 24th through Sunday, November 1st, 2026 from 9:00 AM until 5:00 PM daily.

The Early Voting Center will be held at the Meridian Township Municipal Building – 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI 48864.

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Angela Demas
Meridian Township Clerk
CP#26-370

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We invited six candidates to talk to City Pulse readers

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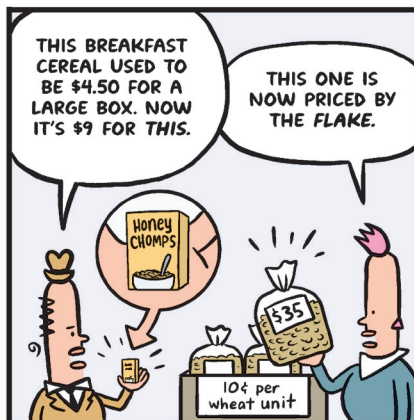
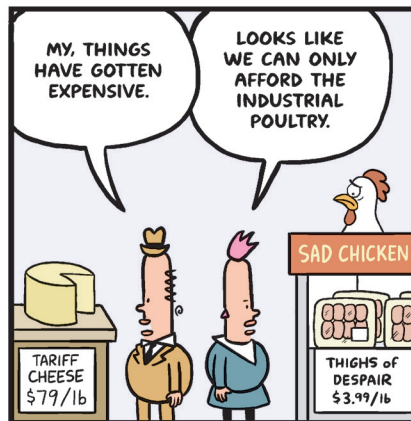
Meet Great Lakes Current: Local journalism, statewide perspective



Boldly looking back on 60 years of "Star Trek"

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Cover photo by Mike Ellis



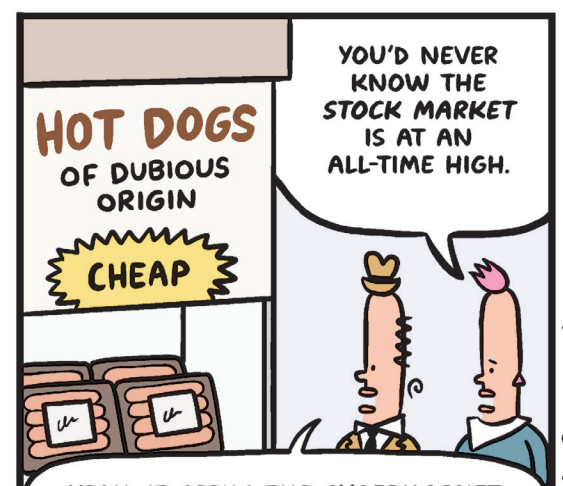
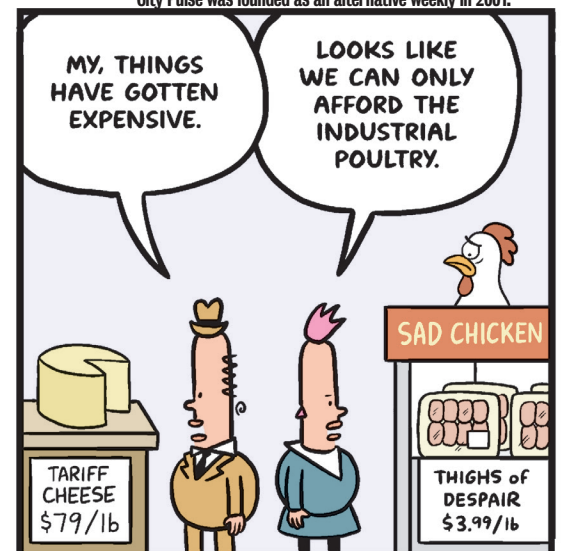
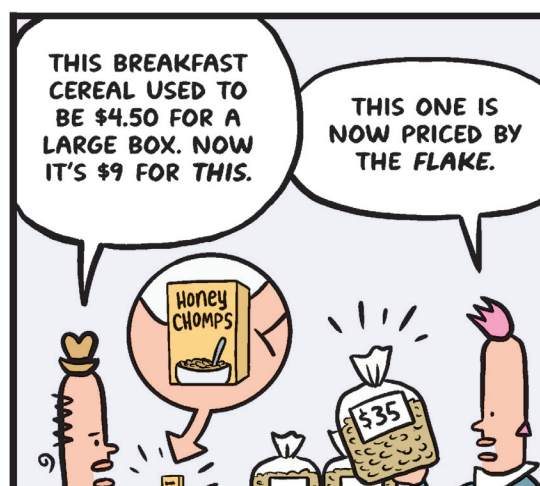
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PULSE

NEWS & OPINION

David Hollister's amazing run ends at 84

By BILL CASTANIER

In the early '80s, State Rep. David Hollister was bit by a bat while running in downtown Lansing. Not to be deterred by a few shots, he kept running.

What was he doing in 1993, right before being sworn in for his first term as Lansing mayor? He was running in his Tecumseh River neighborhood.

In 2000, Hollister was diagnosed with Parkinson's disease, and his running regimen evolved into a daily 5-mile walk with his spouse, Christine, leading the way.

In the late 2000s, Parkinson's forced him to transition to a high-tech walker, still running.

After his death at 84 on Sept. 22, he was remembered for his determination and his decades-long run as a public servant who could not be kept down.

He is remembered by friends, family and his wife, Christine, as someone who was "visionary," "caring," "tenacious" and "strong-willed."

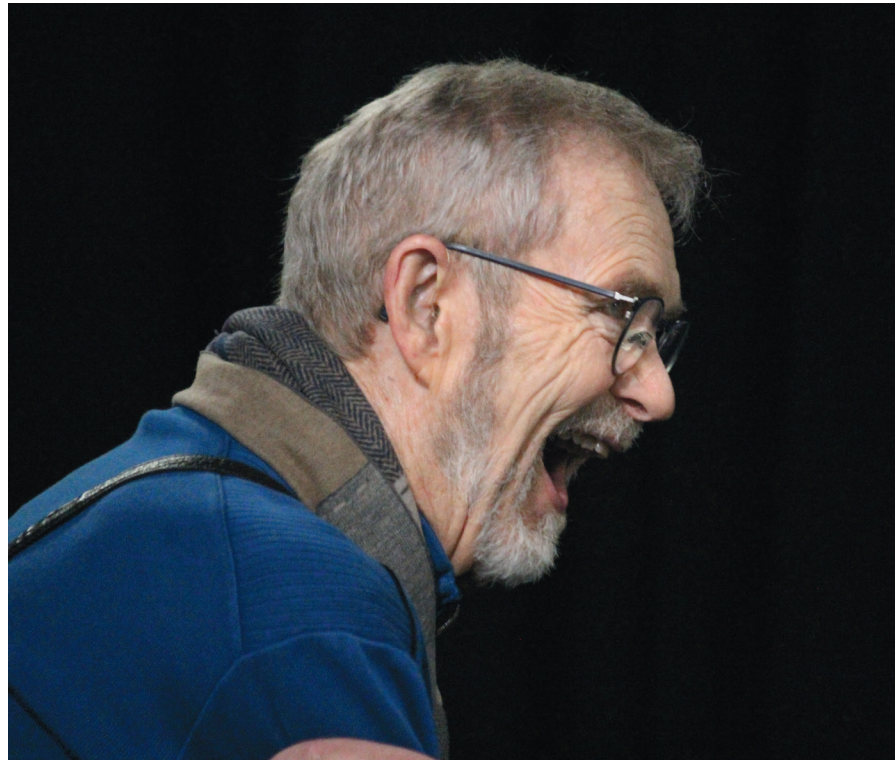
Hollister was part of the World War II baby boom, born in Kalamazoo in 1942 and raised in a middle-class family in Battle Creek. He was the first in his family to attend college, earning both a bachelor's and master's degree from Michigan State University.

In April of 1965, Hollister learned that Martin Luther King Jr. would be speaking on campus at the MSU Auditorium. It was a fundraiser for an educational program in Mississippi. Hollister arrived late and had to sit in the balcony.

While leaving the event, he ran into King on a staircase landing.

It was a serendipitous, and fleetingly brief, meeting with King, but that staircase moment would change the trajectory of both Hollister's life and the future of Lansing.

Hollister had considered being a minister but instead, in the summer of 1966, he packed his bags and, with his young family, became a volunteer teacher with other MSU



Mike Ellis/City Pulse

David Hollister laughed with a friend during a January 2026 swearing-in ceremony for Lansing City Council members.

students at a Mississippi Freedom School in Holly Springs, Mississippi, a summer program at Rust College. At the time, Mississippi was a hotbed for voter registration efforts as well as racial violence. Freedom Schools, part of Freedom Summer, were established to help bridge the educational disparities between white and Black children.

In an interview with City Pulse, Hollister recalled how "scared" everyone was. Just two years earlier, three civil rights activists had been killed in Mississippi.

After graduation, Hollister taught in Durand but resigned over differences of opinion regarding teaching a segment on Black history. Moving to Lansing, he taught American history at Eastern High School from 1967 to 1970.

His students loved him; one of his students, Sherri Randall, now lives

in Northern Michigan and became a teacher.

"He was an amazing teacher who taught living history," she said.

In the 1967 school year, Hollister showed films of his Mississippi experience to the students and organized rallies.

"He was fearless and believed that if you are going to teach, you have to live it," Randall said.

Hollister was also an anti-war activist and participated in marches and rallies. During one march to the Capitol, he was nearly run over by an errant driver, according to Richard Baker, a former Lansing City Council member who was just ahead of him. Hollister's activism put him on the university's infamous Red Squad list, which compiled intelligence dossiers of labor organizers and anti-war activists. Hollister considered it an honor to be included in such a list.

Hollister began his political career as an Ingham County commissioner, a post he held from 1968 to 1974. At the start, the board was decidedly under Republican control. By the time he left, it was in the hands of Democrats.

He kept his bell bottoms he wore to commission meetings; they still bear an upside-down American flag and a peace symbol sewn on the butt.

In 1974, he left the county commission after winning his run for the Michigan House of Representatives. In his 18-year stint in the House, he held several leadership roles, including chair of the powerful Social Services Committee, which oversaw services for Michigan's poor.

As a state representative, Hollister did not shy from controversial issues and proposed successful legislation for mandatory seatbelt use, which was considered an assault on citizen rights by many. Hollister also shepherded legislation covering open meetings and freedom of information.

Inspired by his grandfather's "prolonged" death, he also introduced "right to die" legislation, which he counted as one of his most important accomplishments. Although controversial at the time, it led to the ability of patients to die with dignity, and today's hospice program can be traced to that monumental legislation. In an interview with Walt Sorg for the Michigan Political History group, Hollister details how his grandfather's death inspired him.

Believing he accomplished everything he could in the House, he ran for mayor of Lansing on a "good government" platform. At the time, Lansing was reeling from an early retirement scandal in which top officials got special treatment while voting on their own retirements with hefty cash payouts.

In his interview with Sorg, Hollister relayed how some business leaders reacted after his election as mayor: "Oh my god, we've elected a

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Hollister

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communist.”

One of the new mayor’s first and most notable achievements was to clean up the sin strip, which had plagued downtown with porno shops and peep shows for a couple of decades.

Hollister offered a visionary alternative: recruit a minor league baseball team and build a downtown baseball stadium in its place. The idea seemed outrageous to many Lansing residents.

But Hollister prevailed and was able to tear down the strip and replace it with a modern baseball stadium with the nameplate of the venerable Oldsmobile.

And when it came time to name the team and a mascot, a significant cadre of residents criticized the choice “Lugnuts,” calling it “stupid.”

In the Sorg interview, Hollister admitted that the city got more letters about the naming than any other issue. Today, the Lugnuts brand is revered in Lansing, and the sin strip gave way to the new Stadium District.

However, Hollister’s most difficult challenge was looming on the horizon. In 1996, a visit from General Motors’ chief lobbyist left Hollister and the city reeling. It was one of those good news-bad news moments that would define Hollister’s public life.

He was told Lansing would get the new Alero line, but in five years GM would pack up and leave Lansing, making 30,000 automotive jobs obsolete.

Not to be deterred, Hollister began searching for an answer. One of his first moves was to meet with David Cole, the preeminent automotive researcher and insider. At a private meeting at the Radisson in Lansing, Cole’s sage advice was to “go to Toledo” and see how they saved the Jeep plant there.

Hollister immediately led a bus tour of Lansing business and public officials to Toledo, where they began developing a strategy to save GM.

Ray Tadgerson, who had worked with Hollister on the stadium project, said “the right people were on the bus,” including labor leaders, local political leaders and business leaders.

The bus trip set in motion a regional effort, “Lansing Works! Keep GM.” In the company’s 100-year history, GM had never before re-

“David Hollister is Lansing. He single-handedly transformed this city into a modern Capital City and made Lansing what it is today. From bringing baseball to ensuring financial stability to all of the things that he did as Mayor, as well as his time prior in the State House and after with the state and at MSU, David Hollister has shaped this city and this region and will forever be associated with Lansing. He has taught me so much and my heart aches for our loss. His legacy is complete, and he will be so missed by all.” – Andy Schor, mayor of Lansing

“David was a beacon for the entire region. As a creative and bold leader, David advocated for structures that would harness the power of business and governmental leaders. The code name was Prima Civitas, a big regional vision with principles that have guided regional support for economic development projects including FRIB and enduring collaborations like LEAP. When the vision paper was shared with the community, David would smile as folks struggled to find the hidden meaning in the title. Yet it was simply a reflection of David—aspire for the best for the region by believing we are better when acting together.” – Lou Anna K. Simon, former president, Michigan State University

“The next time you are driving by one of the Lansing GM Plants or even one of the GM suppliers, there is no other single person that deserves your thanks more than David C. Hollister. It was 1996 when Dave got the call from GM informing him that there were no plans to continue operations after the current models at LCA ended. Not the call that any newly elected mayor wants to receive. Dave immediately went to work to mobilize the city by forming the “Keep GM in Lansing” committee. The goal was clear: to be the first city to ever turn around a GM closure decision. We all enjoy the results of this work today. Not one, but two modern assembly plants (LGR and LDT). Not one, but two modern stamping plants at both assembly plant sites. And recently, the new battery plant. Thank you David for doing the impossible!” – Randy Thayer, retired regional plant manager for General Motors Lansing

“I would say that Dave Hollister was the essential ingredient that saved Lansing from slipping into obscurity and perhaps bankruptcy. Hollister was a verb rather than a noun. He was Lansing’s version of FDR during our greatest difficulties. His faith and confidence in the people of Lansing never wavered, and it bolstered the entire region’s belief in ourselves. I don’t know if we became a “world-class city,” but thanks to Dave Hollister, Lansing never stopped striving for it. He was a model, a Mayor, and a jewel of a man. He will be sorely missed.” – Virg Bernero, Lansing mayor from 2006 – 2017.

“I first met Dave Hollister in 1972 when he was recruiting people to run for the Ingham County Board of Commissioners. Even then, his dedication to his community and his commitment to making people’s lives better were unmistakable. Those values never wavered. Dave made a profound difference in the lives of countless people and in the quality of life in Lansing and across our beautiful state. Dave was the kind of leader we need more of today and I’m grateful to have been his colleague and friend. My love and prayers go out to his family.” – Debbie Stabenow, retired U.S. Senator.

“I decided to start my political career and run for Lansing City Council in 1995 because of an energetic, optimistic, visionary new mayor... David Hollister...who encouraged and supported me. His contributions to our region are legendary, from changing the skyline with projects like Lugnuts Stadium to being the leading force in the city’s effort to keep General Motors. Dave Hollister not only had vision, he made those visions become reality. He loved and served Lansing for most of his adult life, even writing the preamble to the city’s revised Charter just two years ago. Dave Hollister leaves a lasting legacy and we are so grateful to him.” – Joan Bauer, former Lansing City Council member and former state representative.

“David Hollister was a role model to me. He was always seeking out innovative ways to improve the lives of everyday people—combining brilliant strategy with relentless execution. And his heart was as big as a barn. I was honored to work with him and to learn from him. My deepest sympathies to his beloved family.” – Jennifer Granholm, former Michigan governor.

versed course on a decision to close a plant.

A plan, created by Tadgerson, showed how a modern automotive plant could be built on the old site.

The bid was audacious. And it worked.

As a result, the Lansing area has two GM plants today.

Hollister wrote a book about the effort, “Second Shift: The Inside Story of the Keep GM Movement,” and it led to a documentary movie.

In 2000, Hollister learned he had Parkinson’s. He wanted to confront and name his new nemesis, so his disease became personified as “Parky.”

His spouse said, “Dave was always a competitive person. He fought Parkinson’s by naming it and having it be his opponent.”

Like every other challenge in his life, Hollister didn’t let “Parky” define him.

He pasted motivational sketches of “Parky” around his home. He kept a daily 15,000-step walk and took up recreational boxing, sparring against the enemy lurking inside him. Sparring against time.

“He had Parky at the foot of the bed, and he would say, ‘I’m going to beat Parky today,’” his wife said. “Parky seldom won, until the end.”

Hollister continued as mayor beyond the early diagnosis. In 2003, he resigned to become a cabinet member in the administration of Gov. Jennifer Granholm. In 2006, he would resign from that post to head the newly formed Prima Civitas, a collaborative partnership between Michigan State University and East Lansing to promote economic growth.

Hollister kept his hand in local politics until near the end. Joan Bauer, a member of the Lansing Charter Commission and a former council member and state representative, said he provided input into the Charter rewrite and even wrote the preamble.

Hollister appeared in the City Council chambers and the City Hall that is named for him earlier this year, when he pushed for the changes.

For future generations, Hollister’s collected papers are at the MSU Archives, and a transcript of his interview with Walt Sorg is online. A celebration of life event is still in the planning stages.

Michigan vets outline everyday impacts of Iran War, airing frustrations with GOP leadership

By KYLE DAVIDSON/
Michigan Advance
MichiganAdvance.com

As gas prices surge to record levels amidst the ongoing war in Iran, military veterans led protestors outside a Lansing gas station Friday in opposition to the war alongside the rollout of an electronic records system they say is harming veteran healthcare.

With the 25th anniversary of the 9/11 terror attacks fresh in their minds, veterans from multiple branches of the military shared concerns that the U.S. had embroiled itself in another war without a clear mission, asking what that will mean for those serving in the latest conflict abroad.

Steve Monti said he was 19 years old and fresh out of army training during 9/11, and that before he knew it, he was in Iraq.

"I was fighting for freedom, peace, democracy, oil – I couldn't tell. I was too close in. I was too close to see the big picture," Monti said. "Twenty-three years later, and I'm still not sure of what we accomplished, whose lives we made better. Certainly not the hundreds of thousands of people who lost theirs."

Monti said the war in Iran is the same story playing out all over again, leaving a new generation to pay the toll.

"And for what? Are we better off?" Monti asked "Is our gas cheaper? Do you feel more safe, more secure? What about your sons and daughters and their futures? All I see are the people like us, the workers of this country, being squeezed, being run dry. The working class is asked once again to tighten our belts so that we can pay for a war that none of us wanted and none of us asked for."

With the election on the horizon, rising inflation on everyday goods and increased gas prices have generated frustration among voters. Multiple speakers at Friday's event, which was organized by the Ingham County Democratic Party and other groups opposed to President Donald Trump's agenda like Common Defense, Indivisible Michigan's 7th Congressional District chapter, laid their frustrations at the feet of U.S. Rep. Tom Barrett (R-Charlotte), the incumbent representing the highly competitive 7th Congressional District.

Barrett has voted in favor of four resolutions asserting Congress's war powers to limit and wind down mil-

itary operations overseas, but those measures have failed to gain support in the U.S. Senate, with the upper chamber voting down the most recent House Resolution on Thursday in a 49-50 vote.

Barrett's opponent, Lansing-area political organizer William Lawrence, and other critics have noted Barrett's votes in opposition to war powers resolutions before the House in March and April.

"Tom Barrett initially voted against limiting Trump's war powers," said Duane Kleinhardt, a retired Army command sergeant major who served with Barrett in Guantanamo Bay. "He says now that he wants us to get out of Iran. Tommy, that is too little and too late."

In an interview with Michigan Advance, Barrett said his initial votes against the war powers resolutions aligned with the 1973 War Powers Resolution, which requires the President to remove all troops after 60 days if Congress has not granted an extension.

"I take the issue of war very seriously. That's reflective of my life experience. And one thing that I am not very flexible on is the issue of whether and how we send Americans into war," said Barrett, who served in the U.S. Army for 22 years, including service during the Iraq War.

Lawrence's campaign has also criticized Barrett for voting in support of a \$95 billion budget framework which includes \$60 billion for defense and \$13 billion for intelligence.

"Just a few months ago, the House needed just one vote to stop a bill that authorized tens of billions of dollars in funding for this war in Iran. It passed with Tom Barrett's support," Lawrence said during a campaign speech Tuesday. "In other words, he could have been the one vote that would have stopped it, and he allowed it to continue."

Barrett said the resolution doesn't mention Iran, and that the funding was for military and troop readiness.

"If William Lawrence thought that that bill was going to halt the war in Iran, then the obvious question is: since that bill has not passed the U.S. Senate, how is the war in Iran continuing today?" Barrett said.

Alongside frustrations over rising costs, veterans at Friday's event also raised concerns about veterans healthcare.

Steven Friday, a member of the Stop the Rollout campaign, called for U.S. Department of Veterans Af-



William Lawrence

fairs officials to halt the implementation of an electronic health record system and for members of Congress to restrict funding to Oracle Health's contract for the system citing issues with the system's performance.

"The Government Accountability Office reported this month that the VA has fully implemented only four of its 18 recommendations concerning the electronic health record program," Friday said. "Fourteen are still not fully implemented."

Barrett, who serves on the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs, noted that they had recently passed a resolution to subpoena the CEO of Oracle Health and Oracle Founder Larry Ellison over costly delays in implementing the new health record system.

Congress is doing the oversight work, Barrett said, but he stressed that veterans need to have portable



Rep. Tom Barrett

record access, noting his father-in-law had issues receiving care at the VA in Battle Creek when he normally receives care in Tulsa, Okla.

Barrett said it is his "sincere intention and effort to make sure that we get to a point where every veteran has a health record system that is adequate in meeting their needs and allows them the portability of their healthcare."

"We understand that where there are issues that need correction, we have to correct that. Where there are gaps that need to be filled, we need to fill that," Barrett said.

He pointed to the sheer number of records managed by the VA, noting that while this does not discount any issues or gaps in the system, the shift to an electronic records system is a significant overhaul that will require continuous oversight until it is fully implemented and operational.

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\$ 2,500
Two thousand five hundred
MEMO: The Hatching LEAP

Slam the brakes on that gas tax pause idea for Michigan

By KYLE MELINN
We're all getting a little relief from \$5-a-gallon gas this week with statewide prices dropping 24 cents. Who knows how long that will last?
The war in Iran. The Strait of Hormuz. When will it all end?
Not soon enough for Republicans, who are being dragged to the bottom of the sea with President Donald Trump's sinking job approval numbers.
GOP gubernatorial candidate John James this week called on Gov. Gretchen Whitmer and Senate Majority Leader Winnie Brinks to immediately suspend the state's 52.4-cent-a-gallon gas tax.
The call comes as Georgia Gov. Brian Kemp declared a state of emergency to suspend its state's 33.3-cent gas tax, joining Indiana, Kentucky and a few other states in such a move.
Could something similar be done in Michigan? Yes.
Will it? No.
It would take all three state government leaders – Whitmer, Brinks and House Speaker Matt Hall to sign off on it.

Opinion

None of them appear willing.
Remember, last year House Speaker Matt Hall drove the state to the brink of a government shutdown over the creation of a new gas tax in which 100% of the state tax money collected at the pump went to roads.
Before, the state collected sales taxes on gasoline. But since our roads crumble quicker from all the freezing and thawing in the spring, Whitmer, Hall & Co. pushed for more road funding.
“Fix the Damn roads,” and all of that. Suspending the gas tax shuts off that spigot.
As part of the 2025 plan, the state was supposed to collect \$420 million (yeah, I know, “420”) a year for roads from the new 24% wholesale tax on pot, but that's not bringing in the money as well as hoped.
So, if Michigan suspends taxes on gasoline and diesel, even for 90 days – after the election – Michigan's transportation system stands to lose \$693 million more, according to a back-of-the-napkin calculation from a state fiscal analyst. That's

\$693 million that is not going to fix the damn roads.
Would Gov. Whitmer – Ms. Fix The Damn Roads – really leave office by sacrificing road funding money for some short-term political pandering that her party doesn't need?
Then there's Brinks. She's Jocelyn Benson's running mate now. Benson has called for a federal gas tax suspension, but she's four-square against a state gas tax suspension, saying it would “blow a hole in our budget, and force us to forgo necessary road repairs.”
Fair to say Brinks will not be putting a gas tax suspension on the board for a vote.
Now, let's turn our attention to Hall. The Republican Speaker could push the issue for short-term political gains, but he is not.
Instead, last week he watched his committee chairs shoot down Democratic amendments that tried to tie basically every bill on the planet to pausing the gas tax.
“We worked really hard to make a deal,” Hall told me. “Now we're starting to fix

our roads and, now, for people to try to suggest that we should change course and stop that progress would be the wrong approach.”
He said he sees any vote to suspend the gas tax without a revenue replacement as “not a serious proposal” and one that would only be done for “optics.”
Hall could do a vote for optics, like the House vote Sept. 23 against socialism, but he said he'd rather the chamber's policy votes be part of a broader deal, like legislation related to medical debt or energy prices.
Beyond that is the fact that the road building industry was generous to Hall and House Republicans as the 2025 road funding package was passed, campaign finance records show.
Road building companies and employees more than doubled their contributions to legislators on both sides of the aisle after the 2025 road funding deal was cut, according to a Bridge Michigan report from January.
For lawmakers to throw up a stop sign in hopes of saving drivers \$10-\$15 on a fill-up isn't worth the aggravation of incomplete road projects when the snow starts falling.

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF DELTA
7710 W. Saginaw Highway
Lansing, Michigan 48917
(517) 323-8500

TOWNSHIP BOARD
Synopsis of Meetings

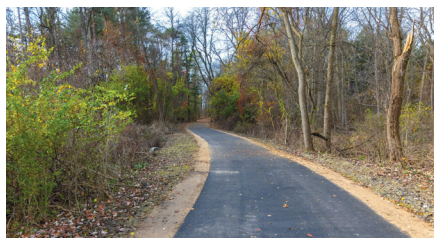
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2026 – REGULAR BOARD MEETING
Acting Supervisor Clerk Clark called the meeting to order at 6:00pm. Acting Supervisor Clerk Mary R. Clark, Acting Clerk Treasurer Dennis R. Fedewa, Trustee Elizabeth S. Bowen, Trustee Andrea M. Cascarilla, and Trustee Joshua I. Lyman. Others Present: Manager Brian T. Reed, Finance Director Courtney Nicholls, Township Engineer Jacob Kleinhenz, Fire Chief John Kahler, Assistant Fire Chief Eric Arnold, Captain Robert Block, Deputy Manager Erin LaPere, Planning & Economic Development Director Peter Menser, Utilities Director Rick Kane.
PRESENTATIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS
PUBLIC HEARINGS
COMMUNICATIONS
1. Willow Dual Force Main & Lift Station
PUBLIC COMMENTS
PASSAGE OF ORDINANCES
CONSENT AGENDA
2. Bills and Financial Transactions – a. \$6,300,638.11
3. Minutes – a. Monday, August 17, 2026
4. St. Joe Highway Water Main and Pathway Project Construction Contract Change Orders, Balancing, and Closeout
5. Utility Agreement Acceptance for Towne Place Suites – Marketplace Boulevard
6. MSP Firing Range MSP Firing Range – Windsor Township Acceptance of Public Facilities
7. Willow Lift Station Upgrades and Dual Force Main Project Consulting Engineer Request for Additional Incurred Fees – Amendment 2
8. Riverbend Estates and Riverbend Condos Special Assessment District – Road Maintenance Eaton County Road Commission Agreement
9. Approval of the Operating, Paramedic/Firefighter, Public Safety and Police Sub Station Bond 2026 Tax Rates for form L-4029 for the Delta Township Winter Tax Roll and the City of Lansing Winter Tax Roll
ITEMS OF BUSINESS
MANAGER'S REPORT
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
10. 2027 Fiscal Year Budget Discussion
ADJOURNMENT
The meeting adjourned at 6:48pm

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2026 – REGULAR BOARD MEETING
Supervisor Brewer called the meeting to order at 6:00pm. Supervisor Fonda J. Brewer, Acting Clerk Treasurer Dennis R. Fedewa, Trustee Elizabeth S. Bowen, Trustee Andrea M. Cascarilla, Trustee Joshua I. Lyman and Trustee Karen J. Mojica (departed at 8:28pm) Others Present: Manager Brian T. Reed, Finance Director Courtney Nicholls, Township Engineer Jacob Kleinhenz, Fire Chief John Kahler, Captain Robert Block, Deputy Manager Erin LaPere, Assistant to the Manager/Communications Administrator Mary Worland, Parks, Recreation and Cemeteries Director Marcus Kirkpatrick, Planning & Economic Development Director Peter Menser, and Utilities Director Rick Kane.
PRESENTATIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS
1. Eaton County Drain Office Presentation
a. Bank Brain Construction and Grant Update – Fahey Schultz, Spicer and Drain Office
b. Maintenance Assessment – Sec. 197 Notices
c. Keller Drain Petition, Board of Determination, and Upcoming Assessment
d. Clement Underhill Drain Extension Presentation and Request
PUBLIC HEARINGS
COMMUNICATIONS
2. BWL Wholesale Water Rate Adjustment – Commodity Charges
PUBLIC COMMENTS
PASSAGE OF ORDINANCES
CONSENT AGENDA
3. Bills and Financial Transactions – a. \$12,411,334.04
4. Minutes – a. Tuesday, September 8, 2026
5. Michigan Avenue Drain Agreement
6. Auto Owners Training Center Utility Agreement
7. Dymaxion Flex Spaces Utility Agreement
8. Raising Canes Utility Agreement
9. Colliers Engineering Technician Services Amendment
10. Set Public Hearing for the FY 2027 Budget
ITEMS OF BUSINESS
11. Rezoning #PRZ2026-0002 (Eyde Development)
12. Zoning Amendment request: Nonpublic Schools on Nonprimary Roads
13. Intergovernmental Police Services Agreement – Waverly Schools – School Resource Officer
MANAGER'S REPORT
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
14. Policy Update on Data Centers
15. 2027 Events and Sponsorship Presentation
16. 2027 Budget Discussion Continued
ADJOURNMENT
The meeting adjourned at 9:17pm

REWIND

NEWS HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE LAST 7 DAYS

COMPILED BY STEVE UNDERWOOD FROM LOCAL NEWS SOURCES



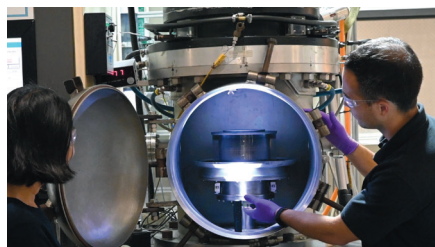
The family of Denis Dunneback of Lansing, 70, believes his death due to injuries from an apparent attack is the fifth in a series of known incidents involving homeless men on the Lansing River Trail since last October. Dunneback's cousin, Teresa Sumpter, told the Lansing State Journal that he was found on the trail near the Kalamazoo Bridge on July 9, a week before he died of the injuries. Four others – Robert William Smith, Gino Chouinard, Daniel Lusk and Louis Woodruff – were beaten or stabbed in attacks in the past 11 months. Lansing Police Department spokesperson Jordan Gulkis told the LSJ police are investigating Dunneback's death and "looking into whether there may be any connection between the incidents."

Lansing Police Department investigators are looking into apparent human remains that were found Saturday. Police were alerted, around 7 p.m., to the apparent remains in the 2400 block of Tecumseh River Road. The city's crime scene investigators and the Michigan State Police Crime Lab were part of the initial investigation, and a MSU Anthropology team was called in for assistance. "Based on the condition of the remains, they are believed to be several years old," according to a statement from the police department. Investigators are working with the Ingham County Medical Examiner's Office to identify the remains. Also on Saturday, in an unrelated incident, police retrieved a prosthetic leg from the Grand River. Both calls happened on the same day but the prosthetic leg is not related to the remains, said Jordan Gulkis, a spokesperson for the police department, in an email.

A new 65,000-square-foot innovation hub is being built at Michigan State University. The Rosenberg Center is a new \$20 million investment from the MSU Research Foundation, an independent R&D nonprofit aligned with the university. The new facility



aims to bring startups, researchers, investors, and corporate partners together to accelerate research and new technologies toward the market. The center is expected to open this summer and will house growing companies and innovation partners and serve as the foundation's new headquarters.



MSU also recently announced a \$20 million grant that will help build a diamond foundry and testing facility for extreme environments like space. The new center will be able to simulate space radiation, which can damage normal electronics and poses serious challenges for spacecraft. The grant from the U.S. National Science Foundation will support the university's Integrated Diamond and Carbon Research in Space Applications, or IDiCaRS, a shared-use research facility designed to accelerate the development and testing of semiconductor technologies for these extreme environments. "IDiCaRS will strengthen MSU's ability to bring together researchers, industry partners and advanced research capabilities to tackle some of the most important challenges facing space electronics and semiconductors," said John Papapolymerou, dean of the College of Engineering and director of the MSU Space Electronics Initiative. "Just as importantly, it will give our students hands-on experience with cutting-edge technologies and help prepare the highly skilled workforce needed to keep Michigan competitive in semiconductors and advanced manufacturing." The facility will work in conjunction with the high-energy heavy-ion beams at the adjoining Facility for Rare Isotope Beams, or FRIB. "We are building a first-of-its-kind niche facility — a di-

amond foundry — here at MSU," said Wen Li, MSU Research Foundation Distinguished Professor in the College of Engineering and executive director of Fraunhofer USA Center Midwest. "The goal is to give researchers in space and automotive electronics a place to move more quickly from developing a material or device to testing how it performs under harsh environmental conditions that can damage electronics in space."



The federal government is suing a Shiawassee County logistics company over sexual harassment allegations. Davis Cartage Co. is identified as a transportation, warehousing and logistics company in the lawsuit announced this week by the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. The lawsuit alleges that the company allowed its president of logistics to sexually harass two female employees at its Owosso location. According to the EEOC's lawsuit, in 2023, the president of logistics, who is also on the board of directors and part owner of the company, passed over more qualified applicants to hire two young women whose photos he found on social media. He then subjected both women to harassing and possessive behavior, including regular comments on their appearance and dress; trying to discuss their personal lives; telling them they owed him for overlooking their criminal histories; inviting one or both to stay at his cabin, to go out drinking or to stay in his hotel room; closely monitoring them with the company cameras while they performed clerical work; and leaning over within inches of them at their desks.



An Eaton County felon will be re-sentenced after decades behind bars. David Armstrong Jones was convicted in 1990 of home invasion, armed robbery, felony firearm and unlawful driving away. On July 4, 1988, Jones,

then 19, along with his brother and a friend, planned to break into a random home out of boredom. Armed with shotguns, Jones and his friend forced entry into a residence in Dimondale, where they robbed and beat the adult occupant before stealing his vehicle and fleeing. Jones was convicted by an Eaton County jury and sentenced to 50–75 years in prison. Over the last 35 years, he has repeatedly challenged his conviction and sentence, but those challenges were denied. Jones previously argued that his sentence was disproportionate and failed to consider his age—arguments rejected by the Court of Appeals in 1992, 2000, and 2012, and declined by the Michigan Supreme Court on multiple occasions. After Jones's third appeal to the Michigan Supreme Court, the Court has now ordered his resentencing. Eaton County Prosecutor Doug Lloyd, a candidate for Attorney General, criticized the decision and linked it to other recent cases. "Now the Court has continued its erosion of victims' rights and public safety by ordering the resentencing of an individual who planned and executed an offense that terrified not only the direct victim, but the community as a whole—and the Court did so because they personally believe the sentence was too harsh," Lloyd said, in a statement.



Michigan State Police are looking for a 2018 Jeep Compass they believe was involved in a fatal hit-and-run crash on Friday in Eaton County. Police have arrested a 39-year-old male from Charlotte they've identified as a suspect; he has been charged with unrelated crimes, according to a statement from State Police. The victim, a 52-year-old Dewitt man, died on Saturday. The crash happened on southbound I-69 near M-100 Highway. Police are looking for the Jeep they believe was involved, it was described as dark gray in color and likely with a broken passenger side mirror and a possibly missing or damaged right-side headlight.

NOTICE OF REGISTRATION FOR THE
GENERAL ELECTION TO BE HELD ON
TUESDAY, 03 NOVEMBER 2026
CITY OF GRAND LEDGE, EATON COUNTY, MICHIGAN

TO THE QUALIFIED ELECTORS of the City of Grand Ledge, Eaton County, Michigan:

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that any qualified elector of the City of Grand Ledge who is not already registered to vote, may register to vote online at www.mi.gov/vote, at the office of the City Clerk, 310 Greenwood St., Grand Ledge MI 48837; the office of the County Clerk, 1045 Independence Blvd., Charlotte MI 48813; a Secretary of State branch office, or other designated state agency. Voters who are already registered may update their registration online at www.mi.gov/vote.

The last day for registering online, at the County Clerk’s office, at a Secretary of State office, or at another designated state agency will be Monday, 19 October 2026. After this date, anyone who qualifies as an elector must register to vote in person at the City Clerk’s office, 310 Greenwood St., Grand Ledge MI 48837, with proof of residency (MCL 168.492).

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that the following will be submitted to the electors at this election: Democratic Party, Republican Party, Libertarian Party, US Taxpayers Party, Green Party, Working Class Party, and Natural Law Party; and candidates without political party affiliation who seek election to the following partisan offices: Governor and Lieutenant Governor, Secretary of State, Attorney General, U.S. Senator, U.S. Representative in Congress 7th District, State Senator, State Representative 76th District (City of Grand Ledge Precinct 4), State Representative 77th District (City of Grand Ledge Precincts 1, 2, and 3), Member of the State Board of Education, Regent of the University of Michigan, Trustee of Michigan State University, and Governor of Wayne State University.

Candidates seeking election to the following nonpartisan offices: Justice of Supreme Court, Judge of Court of Appeals 3rd District, Judge of District Court 56A, City Offices, Members of School Board, and Grand Ledge Area District Library Board Member.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that the following proposals will appear on the ballot:

STATE PROPOSAL 2026-1

A proposal to convene a constitutional convention
for the purpose of drafting a general revision of the state constitution

Shall a convention of elected delegates be convened in 2027 to draft a general revision of the State Constitution for presentation to the state’s voters for their approval or rejection?

STATE PROPOSAL 2026-2

A proposed initiated law to prohibit campaign contributions from certain regulated utilities and government contractors and apply campaign finance laws and regulations to additional types of political communications

The proposal would:

- Prohibit regulated electric and gas utilities, contractors with over \$250,000 annually in government contracts, and people and organizations with substantial connections to these utilities/contractors from making direct or indirect campaign contributions to those who run for or hold offices that impact them.
- Expand laws regulating spending on political communications, including those requiring disclosing donor information, to apply to communications clearly identifying candidates or ballot questions, even if they do not expressly advocate voting for/against them.
- Expressly apply the law requiring disclosure of who paid for political communications to internet political communications.

Should this proposal be adopted?

EATON COUNTY TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY (EATRAN)
MILLAGE RENEWAL AND RESTORATION AUTHORIZATION QUESTION

For the purpose of continuing funding for the exclusive use of public transportation purposes, to include accommodation for elderly and disabled persons by the Eaton County Transportation Authority (EATRAN), at the same millage level previously approved by the voters in 2020, shall the previously voted increase in the constitutional limitation upon the total amount of taxes which may be assessed in one (1) year upon all property

within the County of Eaton, Michigan, be renewed at 0.2493 of one (1) mill, and shall the previously authorized reduced millage of 0.0007 of one (1) mill be restored, for a return to the previously voted total limitation of up to 0.2500 of one (1) mill (\$0.25 on each \$1,000 of taxable value) for a period of five (5) years, 2027 to 2031, inclusive, and shall the County of Eaton be authorized to levy such millage for said purposes?

The estimate of the revenue for the County of Eaton in the 2027 calendar year is approximately \$1,309,743. A small portion of the revenue collected (approximately \$24,754 in 2027) may be required to be distributed to Downtown Development Authorities, Tax Increment Financing Authorities, Local Development Financing Authorities, Corridor Improvement Authority, and Brownfield Redevelopment Financing Authorities established in cities of Charlotte, Eaton Rapids, Grand Ledge, Pottersville, Township of Delta, and Village of Bellevue.

LOCAL ROADS AND STREETS PRESERVATION
AND IMPROVEMENT MILLAGE PROPOSAL

For this purpose, shall the constitutional limitation upon the total amount of taxes in the which may be assessed in one (1) year upon all property within the County of Eaton, Michigan be increased, and shall the County be authorized to levy, up to 1.5000 of a mill (\$1.5000 on each \$1,000 dollars of taxable value) for a period of ten (10) years, 2026 to 2035, inclusive, to provide funds for the preservation, preventative maintenance, drainage, culvert and bridge repairs, and other improvements of existing paved and gravel surfaced County Local Roads within the townships of Eaton County, including two (2) applications of dust control each year on all gravel surfaced county roads, and for the improvement of City and Village streets in Eaton County.

If approved and levied in full, this millage will raise an estimated \$7,843,350 in 2026, to be disbursed to the Eaton County Road Commission, the Cities of Charlotte, Eaton Rapids, Grand Ledge, Lansing, Pottersville, and Olivet, and the Villages of Bellevue, Dimondale, Mulliken, Sunfield, and Vermontville. As required by State law, a small portion of the millage (approximately \$151,612 in 2026) may be required to be distributed to Downtown Development Authorities, Tax Increment Financing Authorities, Local Development Financing Authorities, Corridor Improvement Authority, and Brownfield Redevelopment Financing Authorities established in cities of Charlotte, Eaton Rapids, Grand Ledge, Pottersville, Township of Delta, and Village of Bellevue.

GRAND LEDGE PUBLIC SCHOOLS
GENERAL OBLIGATION UNLIMITED TAX BOND PROPOSAL
FOR BUILDING AND SITE PURPOSES IN THE AMOUNT OF
NOT TO EXCEED \$123,500,000

Full text of the ballot proposal may be obtained at the administrative offices of Grand Ledge Public Schools, 220 Lamson St., Grand Ledge MI 48837-1760, telephone: (517) 925-5400.

HOLT PUBLIC SCHOOLS
OPERATING MILLAGE RENEWAL PROPOSAL
EXEMPTING PRINCIPAL RESIDENCE
AND OTHER PROPERTY EXEMPTED BY LAW
18.6176 MILLS FOR 10 YEARS

Full text of the ballot proposal may be obtained at the administrative offices of Holt Public Schools, 5780 W. Holt Rd., Holt MI 48827, telephone: (517) 694-0401.

SAMPLE BALLOTS may be viewed at www.mi.gov/vote or at the City Clerk’s office.

ABSENT VOTER BALLOTS are available to any registered voter upon request; no reason is required. The City Clerk’s office must have a signed application to issue an absent voter ballot, unless the registered voter is on the permanent absent voter ballot list. Applications are available at the City Clerk’s office or by visiting www.mi.gov/vote.

Monday, 02 November 2026 at 4:00 p.m. is the deadline to request an absent voter ballot except for those who register to vote on Election Day. Absent voter ballots issued on Monday, 02 November 2026 may be requested in person at the City Clerk’s office.

Those registering to vote on Election Day, Tuesday, 03 November 2026, are eligible to receive an absent voter ballot at the City Clerk’s office.

MONDAY, 19 OCTOBER 2026
LAST DAY FOR VOTER REGISTRATION OTHER THAN IN-PERSON

Persons with special needs as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act should contact the City Clerk’s office or call the Michigan Relay Center TDD # 1-800-649-3777.

Gregory Newman, Grand Ledge City Clerk

Lawrence is running for you, not the corporations

By **WILLIAM LAWRENCE**



I am running for Congress to stop AI data centers, invest in good housing and healthcare, and stop Trump's disastrous war in Iran that has sent our gas and grocery prices

through the roof.

Michigan needs a true representative in Congress, someone unbought by corporate CEOs and independent of party bosses. I will be that representative. Mid-Michigan is my home. I grew up in East Lansing, graduated from East Lansing High School, and live in Lansing.

I am running for Congress to represent, serve, and strengthen the community that raised me, at a time when powerful interests are trying to tear us apart. I have a track record of taking on the rich and powerful, and winning.

As a non-profit leader, I helped to pass the Inflation Reduction Act, which has delivered over \$3 billion in investment for manufacturing jobs in the 7th district. I stood up to Wall Street firms trying to kick Lansing families out of their homes, and I delivered investment for more affordable housing here in the 7th district.

I've been a vocal critic of politicians from both parties who have placed out-of-state corporate interests over Mid-Michigan communities.

My opponent, Tom Barrett, can't say the same.

Data center developers spent nearly \$1 million to elect Barrett in 2024. To return the favor, Barrett gave them billions of dollars in tax breaks — and paid for it by cutting our healthcare funding.

Barrett also voted to ban local municipalities from regulating AI or data centers for the next 10 years. Now he's lying about his record to try to hide the fact that he rolled out the red carpet for Big Tech.

Meanwhile, I've stood shoulder-to-shoulder with residents at public meetings in Howell Township, Lyon Township, Mason, and Lansing to fight back against data center developers.

After seeing how Big Tech was manipulating and bullying its way into small towns, I became one of the first candidates in the country to call for a moratorium on AI data center development. I recently released my Stop Tech Overreach Plan, which calls for a pause on data centers and advanced AI development, followed by a national AI Benefits Compact.

AI could benefit all of us, but right now, the rich and powerful are using it to get richer and more powerful, while the rest of us are being taken advantage

of. My plan will ensure that Michigan's people and water are not sacrificed to build data centers. It also prevents AI-powered Flock surveillance, AI-enabled denials of medical claims, and AI usage in elementary classrooms, which poses a serious risk to our children's literacy, critical thinking, and social skills.

I am tired of our district not having a representative in DC.

During his time in office, Barrett has only represented Donald Trump and his billionaire donors. Barrett has voted with Trump 99% of the time — including to fund the disastrous war in Iran.

I have not waited to reach Washington to serve our community. When Barrett voted with Trump to cut SNAP benefits to Michiganders, I held a 30-hour food drive and vigil outside his office and fed thousands of Mid-Michigan families.

When he voted to roll back the Affordable Care Act, I held a fundraiser that eliminated \$130,000 in local medical debt. Since my opponent refuses to hold town halls and appear publicly in front of his constituents, I held an eight-hour "ask me anything" outside his office.

As your Congressman, I will always be available, accessible, and responsive.

Our people-powered campaign has activated over a thousand volunteers and knocked on over 100,000 doors. We are building a campaign of the people, by the people, and for the people. You can join in by dropping into our campaign office at 3024 E. Michigan Ave! We're open from 1-9 PM any day.

All are welcome, regardless of your experience or skill set.

All of this is why the most powerful corporations and Donald Trump are spending millions to buy this election, including by spreading ridiculous lies and smears about me.

They are afraid of the movement we are building right here in mid-Michigan. You can count on me to fight for you, because I'm not taking a dime of corporate PAC money.

That is why I am endorsed by the Michigan AFL-CIO, the United Auto Workers, IBEW Local 665, National Nurses United, and dozens of other unions, community groups, and local public servants. It is time to turn the page on the endless wars and brazen corruption.

I'm fighting to build a Michigan we can afford, a future we can look forward to, and a country we can be proud of. It would be an honor to earn your vote, and to serve you as your Congressman.

My focus is on results for the 7th District

By **REP. TOM BARRETT**



I knew when I decided to run for Congress that I was entering a world of non-stop partisan warfare.

I wish I could tell you I was wrong.

I was barely sworn in before dark money ads started attacking me - \$6 million worth in the first 18 months of my term - distorting my record and making outrageous claims, before I'd barely even voted.

That includes my opponent, who started organizing political protests outside my office before I'd even hired our full staff. It was clear William Lawrence had an agenda; what wasn't as obvious was that his plan was to run for Congress. While he and his activist allies harassed my first hires, vandalized my office, staged political stunts and hurled accusations, I was focused on doing the job I was elected to do.

And I'm proud of what I've been able to accomplish for our communities in my first term. Extremely proud. I've led the charge to take on the big insurers driving up our health care costs, passed a historic law that will help build more homes and lower the cost of housing, and secured tax relief for tips, overtime and Social Security.

I've also delivered critical wins for Greater Lansing. Michigan State University is a world-class institution and a critical part of mid-Michigan's economy and cultural identity. I was able to secure \$125 million in federal funding for MSU's Facility for Rare Isotope Beams (FRIB), where professors, scientists, and students conduct advanced nuclear physics research with applications for national security, energy, medicine, industry and more. I also secured \$3 million for agricultural research at MSU in plant science, coordinated in a partnership with scientists across the country. The Capital Region International Airport is a critical transportation hub for mid-Michigan and as we grow and diversify our regional economy, our global transportation infrastructure must meet the moment. I was able to secure nearly \$8 million in funding for five new passenger jet bridges, which will create a better experience for travelers and more economic activity for the region. Over the last few years, Lansing has become one of the most violent

cities in America. Crime is impacting our safety and hurting our communities. While my opponent has repeatedly called for defunding the Lansing Police Department, I've secured new funding for LPD, East Lansing PD and other agencies to make sure they have the tools to keep our communities safe. However, we can't just police ourselves out of this crisis; we also need to make sure young people have options. I was able to secure \$750,000 in funding for the United Mentoring Program (UMP), a local nonprofit that connects middle and high school students with mentors, as well as help UMP secure a permanent building for the program. UMP not only provides teens with positive role models, but it offers academic tutoring, life skills education, community service opportunities and career development.

The program is designed to reduce crime and put young people on the path to success. In addition to the \$146 million I've been able to secure for infrastructure, public safety, mentoring and other 7th District priorities, I've also been able to help everyday people navigate government and resolve problems.

In my first term, I've personally been involved in 563 meetings, visits and tours. My office had more than 74,460 constituent engagements, resolved 1,140 constituent cases, and returned \$6,541,732 to residents.

That's a real impact on people's lives and livelihoods.

I've also been willing to break with my party on important principles. I was one of only four Republicans to vote with Democrats four different times to require the Trump Administration to get congressional approval for the war with Iran. I was one of the first Republican co-sponsors of Rep. Thomas Massie's legislation to force the Trump Administration to release the Epstein Files.

And I've opposed President Trump on data centers, warrantless surveillance and allowing Chinese-made cars to be sold here in the U.S.

Serving in Congress is an honor, just as wearing the U.S. Army uniform for 22 years was. I am grateful to the people who entrust me to represent them, and I hope you will give me that opportunity for two more years. Regardless of your party, know that I am committed to representing all the people of the 7th District.

City Pulse invited the campaigns for governor, U.S. Senate and 7th Congressional District to speak directly to our readers. Their responses appear here and on the next two pages.

El-Sayed: I'm running because our kids are the whole point

By **ABDUL EL-SAYED**

At a town hall in Grand Rapids last week, a young boy asked me a question: "What was the driving factor for you to run for Senator?"

I didn't have to think twice. My answer was as simple as it was automatic: "You."

As a father, my "why" in this race has always been clear. Our kids are the whole point. In every child, I see my own children.

My brilliant daughters, Emmalee and Serene, are eight and three. I'm running for Senate because I want them to grow up in a world where they and all the children they're growing up with have a shot at the future they deserve.

But right now, our politics are keeping that out of reach. For far too long, billionaires and corporations have rigged the system against us all. Special interests buy and sell politicians while everyday Michiganders strain under record-breaking costs and stagnating wages. Utilities, insurance premiums, mortgages, gas and groceries—none of them are affordable

alone. Together, they're pushing us to the brink.

I'm running for Senate because in the richest, most powerful country in the world, it shouldn't be this hard to simply get by. That's why I've never taken a dime of corporate money and never will. And on day one as Michigan's next Senator, I will champion legislation to overturn the catastrophic Citizens United ruling to get corporate money out of our politics—so that we can finally build the world our children deserve.

I am not sure what Mike Rogers would say if he were asked the same question. We may never know because he doesn't do town halls where such questions are often asked. Considering the consequences of the full scope of his career, his honest answer would likely be the exact opposite: "To make more money."

We've seen what happens when Mike Rogers gets a taste of power. We've suffered through it before.

Rogers spent twenty years in the state Senate and then in Congress abusing his

office to enrich himself at the expense of Michiganders.

He took money from Big Oil – then voted to keep gas prices high.

He took money from Wall Street – then voted for higher credit rates.

He took money from Big Pharma – then voted to gut Medicaid and raise prescription drug costs.

And upon leaving Congress, he spun through the revolving door to rake in millions by advising the very corporations he was supposed to regulate in office.

Mike Rogers has never met a billionaire or a corporation he wouldn't eagerly sell us out to. We know this to be true: life gets harder for Michiganders when Mike Rogers is in charge. Because like his puppetmaster Trump, Rogers represents the worst in our politics.

As I've crisscrossed the state over the past year, I've had a chance to speak with voters of all backgrounds. We've held over 600 events in each corner of Michigan, and everywhere I go, I hear the same concerns. Trump is running wild in Washing-

ton without any checks or balances, and it has led us into a disastrous trade war with Canada as well as an immoral regime change in Iran. Mike Rogers has only cheered Trump's extreme policies, and, if elected, he'd rubber-stamp them without a second thought.

Folks can't afford their groceries. Gas is too expensive. Young people worry they'll never be able to hold a job or own a home, and healthcare access continues to be stripped away.

This November, we can do something about that.

We can get money out of politics. We can put money in your pocket. And we can deliver Medicare for All.

This election is a referendum on politics as usual.

We have a choice between a government that serves Michigan or a government that serves Donald Trump and the corporations off of which he's enriching himself.

Michiganders, the choice is yours. Our children are counting on us.

BRIGHTON, MI

Mike is Michigan born and raised. He grew up in Livingston County where he worked on a factory floor at Cars & Concepts, working on Chrysler LeBarons.

Michigan is the state that put the world on wheels. But in the quarter-century Democrats have controlled both our Senate seats, they have cost Michigan 200,000 manufacturing jobs. Now, they're threatening to drive Michigan's auto industry into the ground.

If Conman Abdul and the Democrats have their way, their EV mandates will cost tens of thousands of Michiganders their jobs.

NOT ON MY WATCH.

Mike won't let that happen.

As someone who has worked on a factory floor, Mike knows what it takes to make it in Michigan. He won't stand by as Conman Abdul kills the heart of Michigan manufacturing.

Nothing will get in Mike's way when it comes to saving Michigan auto jobs.

It's Buff Mike now. And he's ready to get to work.

By cutting red tape, stopping EV mandates, reshoring business, and investing in skilled trades, Buff Mike fixes the heart of Michigan manufacturing.

Michigan's auto industry is back open for business and workers' jobs are protected. That is how Buff Mike saved Michigan manufacturing. Stay tuned for more...

Paid for by Rogers For Senate

From the Mike Rogers campaign

Washington's chaos is costing all of us – this November we can stop it

By JOCELYN BENSON

Earlier this month in Lansing, I talked with a man who told me about his friend, Chris, who has preexisting health conditions and just saw her insurance premium nearly triple to over \$800 a month on top of a \$5,500 deductible. He shared that she is making impossible choices no Michigander should have to make: deciding whether to pay for health insurance or food. For her – and for thousands of others who rely on the Affordable Care Act – the chaos in Washington, D.C. isn't some distant problem. It's a mess, a failure, and it is imposing unfair, unsustainable choices on their lives.

And they are not alone.

Across Michigan, families are watching their grocery bills climb, paying more to fill up their tanks and are struggling to keep up with their electricity and heating bills. The war in Iran has sent energy prices higher, adding another thousand-dollar financial burden to Michigan families – more than any other state. At the same time, Donald Trump's reckless trade war with Canada is saddling Michigan families with a bill of \$6,419 – again, more than any other state in the nation – costing our state a total of \$26 billion in tariff-related costs.

This is unacceptable. We must do better.

Here in Michigan, we can define what government should be – for everyone.

As governor, I will lead us down a better path. We will lower costs, grow our economy to raise wages and end the corruption that got us here.

The affordability crisis is an urgent one. I see it every day – that's why the first thing I did in this campaign was roll out a plan to lower housing and healthcare costs, end profit-driven rate hikes on our utility bills, fully and efficiently fund our public schools, and bring a new era of transparency to Lansing. And with mere weeks left in this election cycle, I am still the only candidate for governor who has done so.

As governor, I will make sure our state agencies are working for you and are saving you time and money, just as I did as Secretary of State.

We will hold Big Pharma accountable for price gouging and take on insurers who deny doctor-prescribed care. We will make it easier and more efficient to build homes so more families can afford a roof over their heads. We will overhaul the school funding formula so every school has the resources they need. And we will get dark money out of politics so that every step of the way, you can be confident your leaders are working for you – not the highest bidder.

Government is supposed to be a partner for families hoping to build a successful life, not another obstacle that gets in the way.

My opponent, John James, has a starkly different approach to leadership. Every lie Donald Trump tells, he repeats. Every bad economic policy Trump implements, he supports. As Michigan families struggle with higher costs, James voted six times to continue the war in Iran that is directly responsible for raising those costs. He skipped a vote on housing affordability, but found time to show up in support of Trump's tariffs that are raising costs on every Michigander.

I have a different vision for the future of Michigan. One that we, the people, dictate – not Donald Trump. I called on Washington to bring this war to an end so families can find relief at the gasoline pump. And as governor, I will fight every day – just as I've done as Secretary of State – to lower your costs and protect your rights and freedoms. Even if it means standing up to the President of the United States.

Because here's the deal: no Michigander should have to choose between their healthcare or their electricity bill. No Michigan family should have to put off a doctor's appointment, a mortgage payment, or a dream because the cost of simply getting by keeps going up.

Washington's chaos is costing us, but here in Michigan we can do better.

We can build a state where costs are coming down, wages are going up, and your government works for you. That is the Michigan I believe in. And it's the future we can build – together.

Editor's note: City Pulse offered space to candidates in three races for this week's issue.

U.S. Rep. John James' campaign accepted the offer and later said they would not be able to provide a column.



HERITAGE FESTIVAL

Sunday, October 4, 2026 | 10:30 am to 4:00 pm
Meridian Historical Village (5151 Marsh Road, Okemos)



- A Welcoming Ceremony | 10:45 am
- Children's Game Area
- Catch and Release Fishing
- Historical Demonstrations & Exhibits
- Irish Dancers in the Chapel | 1:00 pm
- Vintage Baseball Game | 1:00 pm
- Renaissance Singers in the Chapel | 2:30 pm



Meridian Township Fire Department OPEN HOUSE



Sunday, October 4 | 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm | Marketplace on the Green (1995 Central Park Drive)

- Meet the firefighters
- Fire apparatus display
- Kids agility test
- Fire prevention information
- Apple cider and donuts
- Meridian Township Police Department

CITY OF LANSING NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Lansing City Council will hold a public hearing on Monday, October 12, 2026, at 7:00 p.m. in the Tony Benavides City of Lansing Council Chambers, Tenth Floor, Lansing City Hall, 124 West Michigan Ave. Lansing, MI 48933, for the purpose stated below:

To afford an opportunity for all residents, taxpayers of the City of Lansing, City Assessor, other interested persons and ad valorem taxing units to appear and be heard on the approval of an Obsolete Property Rehabilitation Certificate (the "Certificate"), pursuant to and in accordance with the provisions of the Obsolete Property Rehabilitation Act, Public Act 146 of 2000, for property located at 1204 South Washington Avenue in the City of Lansing, Michigan, legally described as:

1204 South Washington Avenue (Tax Parcel No. 33-01-01-21-181-070):

S 21.5 FT of N 65 FT of E 100 FT LOT 1 BLOCK 194 ORIG PLAT;

Approval of this Certificate will allow the owners of real property within the District to apply for an abatement of certain property taxes for the improvements to their property located within the District. Further information regarding this issue may be obtained from Kris Klein, President & CEO, Lansing Economic Development Corporation (LEDC), 401 S. Washington Sq. Suite 101, Lansing, MI 48933, (517) 599-1136.

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

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

CP#26-364

NOTICE OF INTENT TO ISSUE MUNICIPAL SECURITIES TO THE ELECTORS OF THE CITY OF EAST LANSING

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the City Council of the City of East Lansing (the "City") intends to issue municipal securities in one or more series, in an amount of not to exceed \$30,000,000 (the "Municipal Securities").

The Municipal Securities shall be issued for the purpose of defraying the cost to design, acquire and construct certain capital improvements, including but not limited to (i) improvements to the City's Sewage Disposal System, including without limitation, sewer main improvements, including, but not limited to, replacing sewer mains, installing new sewer mains, rehabilitating and lining of sewer mains, pump station improvements, and other Sewage Disposal System improvements the City shall determine to make; (ii) improvements to the City's Water Supply System, including without limitation, replacements and upgrades to the meter and reading system, replacing existing water mains and installing new water mains, and other water main work, water tower improvements and construction, and such other Water Supply System improvements the City shall determine to make; (iii) improvements to the City Hall, including, but not limited to, upgrades to the elevators, replacement of basement and corrections area HVAC and exhaust systems, replacement of emergency generator, replacement of certain air handling units, upgrading the building management system, improvements and replacements to the sump pump and lift stations, relocate and renovation of the ELPD women's locker room, upgrades to the fire alarm and emergency lighting systems, and LED lighting upgrades; (iv) improvements to the Hannah Community Center, including, but not limited to, improvements to the service elevator, replacement of the rooftop air handling unit serving the executive conference room, upgrading building management systems, upgrading generator, replacing roofing and main entry doors, building envelope improvements, wall repairs and painting, installation of new fiberglass doors in Natatorium, interior and exterior lighting installation and upgrades, renovation of restrooms and locker rooms, replacement of pool deck, installation of solar panels; (v) renovation of the Hannah Community Center third floor, including, but not limited to, fire suppression and ceiling panel upgrades, ADA restroom upgrades, plumbing, HVAC and electrical upgrades, flooring and finishing upgrades, including ACM abatement, and parking lot expansion and pavement; (vi) improvements to certain parking lots, including, but not limited to, the aquatic center/softball complex and soccer complex; and (vii) improvements to the City's fire station, including but not limited to, improvements and reconstruction of the parking lot, expansion and renovation of the sleeping quarters; as well as all work, equipment, and appurtenances necessary or incidental to these improvements and such other improvements to the Sewage Disposal System and Water Supply System and other capital improvements as the City may determine to make or acquire, and to pay the costs of issuance of municipal securities and capitalized interest, if any.

The Municipal Securities of this issue shall mature within the maximum terms permitted by law with interest on the unpaid balance at a rate not to exceed the maximum rate permitted by law to be determined upon the sale of the Municipal Securities. The Municipal Securities shall be issued pursuant to Act 34, Public Acts of Michigan, 2001, as amended ("Act 34").

SOURCE OF PAYMENT

The principal of and interest on the Municipal Securities will be limited tax full faith and credit general obligations of the City, payable from any available funds of the City. Pursuant to this pledge of its limited tax full faith and credit, in the event available funds of the City are not sufficient to pay the principal of and interest on the Municipal Securities, the City will be obligated to levy such ad valorem taxes upon all taxable property in the City as shall be necessary to make the payments of principal and interest on the Municipal Securities, which taxes, however, will be limited by applicable constitutional, statutory and charter limitations on the taxing power of the City.

RIGHT OF REFERENDUM

This notice is given, by order of the City Council of the City, to and for the benefit of the electors of the City in order to inform them of their right to petition for a referendum upon the question of the issuance of the Municipal Securities. The Municipal Securities will be issued, without submitting such a question to a vote of the electors, unless within 45 days after the date of publication of this notice a petition requesting a referendum upon such question, signed by not less than 10% or 15,000 of the registered electors residing within the City, whichever is the lesser, shall have been filed with the City Clerk or other recording officer of the City. In the event that such a petition is filed, the Municipal Securities will not be issued unless and until the issuance thereof shall have been approved by the vote of a majority of the electors of the City qualified to vote and voting thereon at a general or special election.

This Notice is published pursuant to the requirements of Section 517 of Act 34.

Emily Gordon, City Clerk
City of East Lansing

CP#26-363

A look at the Greater Lansing area state Senate and House candidates

By KYLE MELINN

Senate District 21

One of the reasons the state Senate is politically competitive is because of districts like the 21st, which was cracked in half by the redistricting commission in 2021. Instead of one bright-blue district that encompasses all of Lansing (unlike prior iterations), the Lansing area was made into two state Senate districts that have generated two likely Democratic districts. That said, many parts of this Greater Lansing area have become more Democratic over the last 10 years as suburban residents in places like Delhi Township and Mason have found the Republican Party a little too polarizing. Even the rural city of Charlotte voted for Whitmer and state Sen. Sarah Anthony in 2022. Anthony took care of the city of Lansing as the chair of the powerful Senate Appropriations Committee in the 2023-24 term and is viewed as a possible leadership candidate going into the 2027-28 term.

Candidates



Josh Burns, 42, a

Mason Republican, owns several Ingham County-based businesses, all connected to e-commerce. A computer programmer by trade, Burns owns an e-commerce site for auto parts and an RV rental service. Currently, he's finishing up a platform for a larger rental market. As a student, Burns was homeschooled. He grew up on 10 acres in Hastings, moved to Lansing several years ago and has lived in Mason with his wife and four kids since 2019. Burns said he went to ITT Technical Institute for three years and received his associate's degree before moving on.

The first-time candidate for public office was elected in the last cycle as precinct delegate.

Sarah Anthony,



42, a Lansing Democrat, is the first Black female chair of the Senate Appropriations Committee. Previously, she was an Ingham County Commissioner and legislative assistant to her predecessor, former Rep. Joan Bauer.

Anthony studied political science and public administration at Central

Michigan University, and has a master's degree from Western Michigan University in public administration. In 2013, she became the youngest Black woman in the United States to serve on a county commission. Anthony later served as chair.

In the summer of 2016, she took on the role of deputy director for partnerships and advocacy for the Michigan College Access Network.

Senate District 28

Senate Majority Floor Leader Sam Singh's decision to voluntarily step away from the state Senate for other professional opportunities opened up the seat to four Democrats, who engaged in a low-dollar, under-the-radar primary.

Democratic-swinging Ingham County makes up 43.33% of the district, which would seem to give Republicans an opportunity. The 2022 results showed otherwise. Singh kept it moderately competitive in Shiawassee and Clinton counties, making the 72% support he won in Ingham insurmountable for the GOP.

Interestingly, the district has only seven precincts in the city of Lansing, but Democrats are tightly concentrated in Meridian Township, East Lansing and Lansing Township, where Singh won in 2022 with 72.43%, 82.14% and 72.83%.

Candidates



Rashida Harrison,

47, a Lansing Democrat, is an assistant professor, researcher and equity strategist with extensive experience in higher education and community engagement.

Harrison taught at Michigan State University's James Madison College, where her work focuses on Black women's political organizing, social movements and social justice. She has also served as director of the "Race in 21st Century Americas" conference and previously worked as an institutional equity coordinator at MSU, helping ensure compliance with anti-discrimination and Title IX policies.

In addition to her academic role, Harrison is the co-founder and lead strategist of Conduit Collective and operates an independent consulting firm focused on equity research, public speaking and nonprofit program development. Her background also includes teaching roles at Central Michigan University and Wayne State University, along with leadership work in arts and community initiatives.

She earned her PhD in African American and African Studies, with a concentration in sociology, from Michigan State University, and holds a bachelor's degree in Africana Studies from Cornell University.



Julie DeRose, 65, a DeWitt Republican, is a small business owner and former state government professional.

DeRose has a background spanning public administration, criminal justice, education, real estate and insurance. She previously worked in state government, including as an adult education director, where she focused on workforce development and helping residents gain job skills.

She holds a master's degree in public administration and has lived in DeWitt for more than 25 years with her husband, Joe, and their daughter, Elaina.

Wes Peterson, 27,



is a Lansing Working Class candidate and software engineer for Scribd, Inc. He graduated from North Carolina State University with a Bachelor's in computer science.

Brandon Crabill,



43, a Lansing Libertarian Party candidate, is a native of Bronson, Michigan.

He earned his undergraduate degree from Michigan State University and his law degree from Western Michigan University Cooley Law School. He's a small business owner who serves on the Lansing Township Downtown Development Authority (DDA) Board, working directly on local economic development and community improvement.

House District 73

Made up of everything in Ingham County south of Grand River Avenue from U.S.-127 to Williamston, District 73 has a lot of farmland, but still not great opportunities for Republicans.

Joshua Rockey is giving it another try after earning 45.2% of the vote in 2024, when Donald Trump generated Republican excitement in Onondaga and Stockbridge. The population centers of the district, however, are made up of a lot of college-educated voters who are increasingly repulsed by Trump. Brixie consistently wins East Lansing with around 80% and Meridian Township

with about 75%. Republicans can win the small cities of Mason and Williamston, but it takes work. Brixie won both in 2022 and 2024.

While an environmentalist, Brixie comes from an agricultural background, which earned her another Farm Bureau endorsement this election cycle, a major selling point in some of these farming communities.

Candidates



Rep. Julie Brixie,

60, an Okemos Democrat, is a fourth-term House member who spent two decades in local government in Meridian Township, including two terms as trustee and three terms as treasurer. She sits on Economic Competitiveness and Energy committees.

Brixie earned her Bachelor of Science from the University of Illinois and earned her master's degree from Michigan State University in crop and soil sciences with a specialization in environmental toxicology. She and her husband have three adult daughters.

Joshua Rockey,



44, a Webberville Republican, served for more than 14 years as chairman of the Webberville Downtown Development Authority and has been a small business owner for more than 25 years. He is the CEO of Z-Solutions, an IT consulting company for small businesses and owner of Capitol City DJs. Rockey ran for the seat in 2024. He was uncontested in the Republican primary and earned 45% of the vote in the General.

Rockey has a degree in electronic engineering and computer science from Lansing Community College. He has lived in Webberville, Haslett and Dansville.

House District 74

With Rep. Kara Hope opting not to seek re-election, this rock-solid Democratic district, made up of the south Lansing (62%) and Delhi Township (38%), appeared to be ripe for the picking for Erin Schor, the wife of Lansing Mayor Andy Schor. But after putting together the bones of what looked to become a viable campaign, Schor pulled out amid grumblings that a husband-wife duo in two positions of power was a little too much.

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Candidates

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Candidates

Harold Pope, an established elder within the African American community, took the Democratic nomination from a pair of eager young candidates. In 2024, the Republican Party put up a candidate who shared the same name as popular Michigan State University basketball coach Tom Izzo and candidate Izzo only got 35% of the vote.



Harold A. Pope, 66, a Lansing Democrat, was elected in 2023 to be the president of the Lansing branch of the NAACP. He’s been president of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., Kappa Delta Lambda Chapter, and an elder with the Turning Point of Lansing. Previously, Pope has served as chair of the Board of Directors for Uplift Our Youth Foundation, board

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CITY OF EAST LANSING NOTICE OF PUBLIC ACCURACY TEST FOR THE TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2026 GENERAL ELECTION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Public Accuracy Test for the November 3, 2026, General Election for registered voters in the City of East Lansing, has been scheduled for Tuesday, October 13, 2026, at 2:00 p.m., in Conference Room A located at City Hall, 410 Abbot Road, East Lansing, MI 48823.

The Public Accuracy Test is conducted to demonstrate that the program being used to tabulate the results of the election counts the votes in a manner that meets the requirements of the law.

All interested people are welcome to attend.

Emily Gordon
East Lansing City Clerk
CP#26-368

CITY OF EAST LANSING NOTICE OF REGISTRATION FOR THE NOVEMBER 3, 2026, ELECTION

To the qualified electors of the City of East Lansing:

Please take notice that the City of East Lansing will hold a General Election on November 3, 2026.

For the purpose of electing the following offices:

- Governor and Lieutenant Governor
- Secretary of State
- Attorney General
- U.S. Representative in Congress
- State Senator
- State Representative
- State Board of Education
- University of Michigan Board of Regents
- Michigan State University Board of Trustees
- Wayne State University Board of Governors
- Ingham County Treasurer
- County Commissioner

The following non-partisan offices:

- Justice of the Supreme Court
- Judge of the Court of Appeals
- Judge of the Circuit Court
- Judge of the District Court
- Lansing Community College Board of Trustees
- East Lansing School Board
- Lansing School Board (Part of East Lansing)
- Bath School Board (Part of East Lansing)

Also, to vote on the following proposals:

State of Michigan:

Proposal 2026-1: A proposal to convene a constitutional convention for the purpose of drafting a general revision of the state constitution

Proposal 2026-2: A proposed initiated law to prohibit campaign contributions from certain regulated utilities and government contractors and apply campaign finance laws and regulations to additional types of political communications.

City

Proposal to Amend East Lansing City Charter Provisions Relating to City Council Meetings

Proposal to Amend East Lansing City Charter Provisions Relating to City Clerk

Proposal to Amend East Lansing City Charter Provisions Relating to City Contracts

- I. City of East Lansing Petition-Initiated Charter Amendment Proposal
City of East Lansing
- II. City of East Lansing Petition-Initiated Charter Amendment Proposal
City of East Lansing

Full text of the ballot proposals may be obtained at the East Lansing City Clerk’s Office, 410 Abbot Road, Room 100, East Lansing, MI 48823. Sample ballots can also be found at www.mi.gov/vote.

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 19, 2026. 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 8am-5 pm
Additional Hours: November 1 from 9 am-5 pm

MSU Communications and Arts: WKAR Studio A
404 Wilson Rd.
East Lansing, MI 48824
Dates & Hours: October 19-November 1; 10am-6pm and November 2; 9 am- 4 pm

Hannah Community Center: Banquet Room
819 Abbot Road
East Lansing, MI 48823
Dates & Hours: October 24-November 1; 9am-5pm and November 2nd 9 am- 4 pm.

ABSENT VOTER BALLOTS:

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

November 2, 2026, at 4:00 pm is the deadline to request an absentee ballot except for those who register to vote on Election Day. Those registering to vote on Election Day, November 3, 2026 are eligible to vote at the Election Day Vote Centers located at City Hall and MSU Communications Building.

EARLY VOTING CENTER

All qualified electors in the City of East Lansing have the right to mark a ballot and tabulate their ballot at one of the Early Voting Centers in East Lansing:

MSU Communications and Arts: WKAR Studio A
404 Wilson Rd.
East Lansing, MI 48824
Dates & Hours: October 19-November 1; 10am-6pm and November 2; 9 am- 4 pm

Hannah Community Center: Banquet Room
819 Abbot Road
East Lansing, MI 48823
Dates & Hours: October 24-November 1; 9am-5pm and November 2nd 9 am- 4 pm

Emily Gordon
East Lansing City Clerk
CP#26-369



COLLEGE NIGHT

6 – 7:30 p.m. • Oct. 21 • lcc.edu/collegenight

Speak with representatives from

50+ COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

Candidates

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member of Big Brothers Big Sisters Capital Region, executive board member of Pilgrim Rest Baptist Church in Lansing, and a member of Lansing’s Juneteenth Commemoration Committee.

Pope received his bachelor’s degree and military commission at the University of Dayton. He retired two years ago after a long career in the auto industry.

He was born in Mississippi, raised in Albany, NY, and now resides in Lansing. He and his wife, Jennifer, have a blended family: three sons, Courtney, Darrell, and Blake, a daughter, Allison, and two grandsons, Devin and Blake. His hobbies include family time, community service, traveling, cooking, swimming, and photography.

Clinton Tarver, 76, a Lansing Republican, is known locally as “the hot dog guy” having run a hot dog stand outside of Lansing City Hall for years. He’s the husband of prominent Republican activist Linda Lee Tarver. He previously ran for the Ingham County Board of Commissioners, but lost to Democrat Myles Johnson. He serves as a deacon for Grace Tabernacle church in Lansing.

House District 75

The redistricting commission created a second Democratic district out of East Lansing and Meridian Township by cutting the two communities in half along Grand River Avenue. Michigan State University and Okemos were put in the 73rd. Most of the student neighborhoods and Haslett are in this one. Yes, the Republican nominee narrowly won Clinton County in 2022 and ‘24 (which makes up 37.8% of the district) with the same 52% of the vote and Shiawassee County (which makes up 8% of the district) with 55.9% and 58.8% of the vote.

But Tsernoglou rolled through the population centers with big numbers -- Meridian Township (25.8% of the district) with about 68% of the vote both years and East Lansing (20.8% of the district) with 79.8% in ‘22 and 77.9% in ‘24. She also won Williamston Township, a swing part of the district, too, with 51% both years.

Candidates

Rep. Penelope Tsernoglou, 47, an East Lansing Democrat, is a second-term House member and sits on the Oversight Committee. Previously, she was a county commissioner for 12 years. Tsernoglou also ran Practical Political Consultants, a voter information service founded by Mark Grebner and Mark Fox. She ran for the House in 2018 but lost in the primary to Rep. Julie Brixie.

The Southfield native has worked as an advocate for victims of domestic violence at EVE (End Violent Encounters)

Inc. in Lansing. She’s also worked as a court-appointed attorney for indigent defendants and juveniles in both Ingham and Eaton counties.

Tsernoglou obtained degrees in psychology and sociology from the University of Michigan, where she played trumpet in the marching band. She earned her law degree from the Detroit College of Law. The attorney of 19 years has been active in the Ingham County Democratic Party. She is married with one child.

Frank Lambert, 60, a Haslett Republican, has worked as a General Motors employee and part-time paralegal. Lambert served in the U.S. Army from 1984 to 1986, received his associate degree in business in 2013 from Lansing Community College and was a small business owner from 1987 through 2002. He has also been a UAW member for 22 years.

He has run for the state House at least six times before, making a bid for the 69th district in 2006, 2010 and 2014. In 2010 and 2012, he lost in the Republican primary, and in 2014, he was defeated in the general election by then-incumbent Sam Singh. Last year, he ran from this district, too.

House District 76

Is Delta Township becoming more Democratic? Is Witwer becoming more popular in this Lansing suburb or is it a little bit of both? The four-term House member swept this traditional 50/50 area with 66.2% support to win in 2022 by her largest margin and with 63.7% in 2024. By comparison, Delta voted 65.5% for Gov. Whitmer in 2022 and 61.5% for Kamala Harris in 2024.

With Delta making up 39% of the district and neighboring Windsor Township another 9.1%, where Witwer won 54.8%, the House Appropriations chair was able to withstand losses in the rural townships the last two elections.

Republicans had an aggressive candidate in 2024 with Andy Shaver, but he didn’t fare any better than prior GOP nominees Gina Johnsen or Christine Barnes. With 2026 looking like a Democratic year, it’s likely Republicans won’t be putting resources here unless polling shows something completely unexpected.

Candidates

Rep. Angela Witwer, 64, a Delta Twp. Democrat, is a fourth-term House member who chaired the House Appropriations Committee in the 2023-24 term. Prior to her election, she was the vice president of the Waverly Community School Board of Education, having served on the board for five years. She worked for Sparrow Health Systems for 22 years in the burn unit as the manager of pediatric rehabili-

itation and as the community relations and marketing department manager. From there, she founded Edge Partnerships in 2007, a public relations, marketing and advocacy group for which she served as president.

Witwer was also an active member of the Lansing Regional Chamber of Commerce Economic Club committee, the Wharton Center for Performing Arts Advisory Council and the McLaren Greater Lansing Foundation Board of Directors.

An alumna of Waverly Community Schools, Witwer went on to receive her bachelor’s degree in business and marketing from Northwood University. She and her husband, Bruce, enjoy spending time with her two children and four granddaughters.

Bill Kaiser, 60, a Lansing Republican, retired as the owner of All Weather Mechanical Inc in 2020 after 17 years. All told, he has 35 years of experience in construction and HVAC. The U.S. Army veteran said he shut his business down after his industry was viewed as “non-essential.” In 2020, Kaiser launched a “Victory Garden” that now feeds 20 families.

Kaiser is originally from Manistique, where he attended high school. He earned his Bachelor of Science from Bay De Noc Community College and completed pre-veterinary studies at Michigan State University, where he participated in the Michigan Political Leadership Program.

House District 77

The Democrats’ ring of influence spread east into Okemos in the mid-’90s and early aughts, west of Lansing into Delta Township in the teens and now north of Lansing into DeWitt and DeWitt Township in the ‘20s. Dievendorf, an unabashed progressive, won DeWitt and DeWitt Township in 2024 with 51.4% of the vote. In 2006, conservative Republican Paul Opsommer smoked his Democratic state House opponent in DeWitt 2:1 and in DeWitt Township with 56.5% of the vote.

Around 54% of the 77th is the north half of Lansing, 43% is in Clinton County and 8% is in Eaton County, mostly Grand Ledge. Dievendorf won Grand Ledge with 54.3% of the vote in 2024, which made it impossible for the Republican nominee to get any traction in this district. By comparison, then-Republican Rep. Rick Jones won the city of Grand Ledge with nearly 60% of the vote in 2006.

Candidates

Rep. Emily Dievendorf, 47, a Lansing Democrat, is a second-term House member who sits on the Agriculture and Regulatory Reform committees. Prior to

the Legislature, Dievendorf served as executive director for Equality Michigan, the president of the Lansing Association of Human Rights, and was federally appointed in 2015 to the Michigan Advisory Committee for the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights and later served as co-chair.

Dievendorf also co-founded a non-profit bookstore in downtown Lansing. They graduated from Michigan State University’s James Madison College with a bachelor’s degree in social relations.

Sally Jo Nelton, 84, a Grand Ledge Republican, retired from the Grand Ledge library after 20 years. She’s worked in various roles over the years, always public-facing.

Nelton became more active in Republican Party groups in Eaton County during Donald Trump’s first campaign in 2016. She ran for Eaton County Commissioner in 2024, but lost in the primary, 278-190. Nelton is also running for precinct delegate this year.

She grew up on a farm in Ohio and moved to Michigan to attend Albion College in 1968. Nelton married a graduate student, who also went to Albion College, and has lived in the Lansing area ever since. She has one daughter, four grandchildren and two great-grandchildren with a third on the way. Nelton enjoys raising chickens and gardening.

Jennifer Long, 43, a Lansing Libertarian, holds a J.D. from Western Michigan Cooley Law School. She has worked for a decade in pharmaceutical sales, working with insurance companies and navigating FDA regulations. She’s also worked for years in homeless nonprofit outreach. She’s originally from Baton Rouge, Louisiana.



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Great Lakes Current

Local Journalism. Statewide Perspective.

Current-ly on the Porch

If you're reading this outside of Yale, there's a pretty good chance you're wondering who I am and why I've suddenly shown up in your newspaper somewhere other than the publisher's box you see each week.

Fair question.

I'm Lonnie Scott, publisher of the five newspapers operated by Buried Lede Media: The Yale Expositor, Lansing City Pulse, The Hamtramck Review, The Tri-City Times in Imlay City, and The Tribune Recorder Leader in Sandusky. I also serve as CEO of Buried Lede Media.

Publisher's Porch is a weekly feature I write for The Expositor about newspapers, our communities, my family, and whatever else happens to be on my mind. If you enjoy this one, you can always subscribe to The Expositor to have my thoughts delivered to your mailbox each week.

This week, though, is a little different, because this is the first Publisher's Porch appearing in all five of our newspapers, and the first edition of something we're calling The Great Lakes Current.

Buried Lede was built around a pretty simple belief: Local newspapers still matter. At a time when large newspaper conglomerates have gutted local newsrooms and replaced local reporting with stories written by someone half-way across the state, we're trying something different.

Once a month, we're asking the editors in each of our newsrooms to choose stories, columns, and opinions they think are worth sharing with readers in our other communities. And we're putting them right alongside the local news you already expect from us.

We're not cutting pages to make room for the Current. We're adding pages to the newspapers you already read.

We know you might not agree with everything you see. A reader



Lonnie Scott



in Capac may have a very different reaction to a column from our alternative weekly in Lansing. Something written in Hamtramck might raise a few eyebrows in Sandusky, etc.

That's OK. In fact, that's part of the idea.

Michigan is a big, complicated and wonderfully diverse state. We think there's value in occasionally seeing what people in another corner of it are talking about, worrying about, celebrating or debating.

The Current is our chance to do exactly that once a month. To go with the flow, if you will. (Get it? Because it's the Current? I'll see myself out.)

We'll probably learn a few things and make some changes along the way. That's part of trying something new.

For now, welcome to the first Great Lakes Current. I hope you'll join me back here on the Porch next month. Unless you're reading this in Yale, or my earlier sales pitch worked and you're one of our brand-new Expositor subscribers. In that case, I'll see you back on the Porch next week.

Former Lansing mayor David Hollister dies at 84

BY MIKE ELLIS
Lansing City Pulse

LANSING — David Hollister, mayor of the city he always saw as world class, has died at 84.



Hollister

Hollister was a social studies teacher at Durand and Lansing Eastern high schools before going into politics, serving as a state representative and as mayor from 1993-2003. He then served as a cabinet member in Gov. Jennifer Granholm's administration, leading the Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Growth.

Hollister had discussed his physical struggles with Parkinson's, with symptoms beginning as early as 2000, but he remained sharp.

Even in recent years, Hollister continued to make occasional public appearances, including visiting the eponymous City Hall to push for changes to the city's charter. His proposal of requiring the city to produce comprehensive data about the city's progress was adopted, and each year when citizens get that report, it'll be a another reminder of Hollister.

Inspired by a brief encounter with Dr. Martin Luther King Jr in 1965, Hollister spent the summers of 1966 and 1968 as a volunteer teacher in the Mississippi Freedom Schools in Holly Springs, MS.

As a teacher in Lansing, he took a students to see Robert F. Kennedy in Detroit.

While working as a full-time teacher, Hollister was elected to the Ingham County Board of Commissioners in 1968 and served until 1974 when he was elected to the Michigan House of Representatives, serving for nearly two decades until leaving to serve as mayor.

As mayor, Hollister faced one of the biggest challenges the city has

ever had: the potential withdrawal of GM operations.

Hollister helped to assemble as Marvel-scale coalition that successfully reversed the potential loss of GM operations in Lansing, which could have devastated Lansing for a generation. Hollister led the "Lansing Works! Keep GM" campaign, bringing together businesses, unions, government officials and community leaders and they kept GM manufacturing operations, and thousands of workers in Lansing.

It was a rare instance of a leader rallying a city and getting a major corporation to reverse such a decision.

The campaign, and its success, was the focus of the book and movie, "Second Shift: The Inside Story of the Keep GM Movement."

Hollister also brought in the minor league Lansing Lugnuts and Jackson Stadium, along with helped to define the Stadium District.

Hollister was elected mayor three times, serving from 1993 to 2003, when he stepped down to accept a cabinet position in Gov. Jennifer Granholm's administration.

He later served as president and CEO of the Prima Civitas Foundation, working closely with MSU President Lou Anna Simon.

"I am heartbroken for Christine, their children, and the entire Hollister family. His loss is immeasurable and will be felt by all those who knew him," said former Gov. Jennifer Granholm. "Dave Hollister was my friend and a mentor to me, and he taught me so much about being a leader. He leaves an incredible legacy of service to this city that he loved so much, and he will truly be missed by all."

Lansing's current City Hall is formally known as the David C. Hollister City Hall and when the city's new building opens, expected in November, it too will carry Hollister's name.

Great Lakes Current

Taxpayers socked with mayor's bills

BY CHARLES SERCOMBE
The Hamtramck Review

HAMTRAMCK — Hamtramck Mayor Adam Alharbi wasted no time in submitting the legal bills from his ongoing effort to prevent the counting of 37 ballots from last November's city election.



Alharbi

As of Aug. 18, taxpayers are on the hook to pay \$135,242 for Alharbi's private fight to prevent those ballots from being counted and then potentially having to give up serving as the city's mayor, according to invoices The Review received through a Freedom of Information Act request.

More legal fees are expected to be submitted to the city for payment. Alharbi has said the bills will eventually total about \$200,000.

Alharbi insists that the city should cover his legal bills because he was acting in an official capacity as mayor.

Alharbi told the city council that the "city should have covered" his legal expenses "from the beginning — for its mayor and the city itself."

But the dispute with his mayoral challenger, former city councilmember Muhith Mahmood, originated before Alharbi was sworn in as mayor back in January of this year.

Alharbi won the election by 11 votes. The uncounted ballots were discovered the day after the November election in the city clerk's office.

Alharbi ultimately lost his court appeals to prevent the ballots from being counted. The Wayne County Board of Canvassers is expected to set a date to count the ballots any day.

The mayor has argued that, because the ballots were left unattended and exposed to unauthorized people in the clerk's office, they should not be counted.

Mahmood insists that every voter has a right to have their ballot counted. The Michigan Court of Appeals agreed with him.

Alharbi appealed to the Michigan Supreme Court twice but, in both

Councilman files a lawsuit against the mayor

BY CHARLES SERCOMBE
The Hamtramck Review

HAMTRAMCK — Hamtramck Councilman Mohammed Alsomiri once again filed a lawsuit against a city official.

This time, he is suing Mayor Adam Alharbi in Wayne County Circuit Court for having taxpayers foot the bill over his private legal case to prevent 37 uncounted ballots from last November's election from being counted.

Alsomiri is also taking issue with Alharbi filing a lawsuit against the city and his mayoral challenger, Muhith Mahmood. Alharbi has accused Mahmood of not being a resident in the city, and thus being ineligible to hold office here.

Mahmood insists he is a resident, but visits his family in Troy.

In both matters, Alsomiri said the mayor is acting as a private individual and is, in fact, acting as a plaintiff — not a defendant.

Alsomiri is also accusing Alharbi of violating the city's ethics ordinance by "knowingly us(ing) his or her office or position to secure personal benefit, gain or profit, or us(ing) his or her position to secure special privileges or exceptions for himself, herself, or for the benefit, gain or profit of any other persons."

Alharbi told The Review: "This lawsuit is entirely without legal or factual merit. As mayor, my role is to serve the best interests of all Hamtramck residents, and ensure that city business is handled transparently and fairly."

In August, a minimum majority of three councilmembers — Nayeem Choudhury, Abu Musa and Muhtasin Sadman — passed a resolution to have the city cover Alharbi's legal fees. The mayor said the total bill could amount to perhaps \$200,000, but did not provide any invoices to back up that claim.

instances, that court turned away his requests for consideration.

The city council approved paying Alharbi's legal bills by a bare majority of just three council members, Nayeem Choudhury, Abu Musa and Muhtasin Sadman.

That was a few weeks ago, and,

Alharbi said the invoices will be submitted now that the city agreed to pay his legal fees.

He has since submitted a bill for about \$135,000 for taxpayers to pay. It's unclear if that bill has been paid yet by the city.

Alsomiri is attempting to stop the payments, and possibly get Alharbi removed from office.

In his lawsuit, filed by Troy-based attorney Mark Wasvary, Alsomiri says Alharbi's "participation in each of the Alharbi lawsuit and Mahmood lawsuit was the product of his own voluntary and affirmative acts, undertaken through privately retained counsel, and was not the result of his having been sued or named as a defendant in his capacity as mayor in either matter."

The lawsuit is the latest development of an ever-widening rift between council members.

Some members have called for censuring others, then have repealed those decisions; ethics violation claims also have been filed.

Alsomiri and Councilman Yousuf Saed are also suing Councilmen Muhtasin Sadman and Abu Musa for voting to approve the sale of the city-owned properties.

Saed and Alsomiri accuse the pair of being related to one of the buyers, and of failing to disclose their conflicts of interest.

Council members are seeking to prevent the transfer of the properties, and they are also accusing Sadman and Musa of violating the city's ethics ordinance.

Despite this friction, Mayor Alharbi told The Review: "I remain fully focused on moving our city forward, delivering on our priorities, and working every day to serve the people of Hamtramck."

A Hamtramck resident has also filed an ethics violation and lawsuit against Alharbi over his legal bill.

since then, Councilman Mohammed Alsomiri has filed a lawsuit and ethics violation complaint against the mayor for orchestrating the city council vote to have taxpayers pay his \$200,000 legal bill.

Alharbi is using one of the state's leading legal firms, Butzel Law,

to represent him. A breakdown of the legal bills reveals a range of addressed topics, including a discussion on The Review's election coverage articles. (However, there was no charge for that discussion.)

At the same time that Alharbi persuaded a minimum of council members to agree to have the city pay his legal fees, he has also complained about the increasing costs of legal fees that the city is paying out for other matters.

His challenger, Mahmood, says that if Alharbi can get taxpayers to cover his legal fees, then (Mahmood) is also entitled.

"But I don't want to do that to taxpayers," Mahmood previously told The Review. In a recent interview, Mahmood said he is still hesitant to submit his legal fees to the city.

However, he also told The Review that he is reconsidering that position.

Alharbi told council that the city is not obligated to pay for Mahmood's legal costs because he was acting as a candidate, not a city official.

In another legal dispute with Mahmood, Alharbi has gone to court challenging his residency in the city. In a recent appeal to the state Supreme Court, that court declined to hear the matter until there was a ruling on it from the Wayne County Circuit Court.

It was not immediately known if Alharbi is also billing taxpayers for that legal fight.

In the residency challenge, Alharbi is utilizing material collected during a prior internal city investigation into whether Mahmood actually lives in Hamtramck, or with his family in Troy.

The investigation concluded that Mahmood is not truly a resident and does live in Troy.

Mahmood still insists he is a resident in Hamtramck, however, and that he simply visits his family in Troy. He says that he lives in an apartment on Holbrook.

That same investigation concluded that Councilman Abu Musa lives in Warren with his family, not in Hamtramck. Musa denies the allegation, and says he lives at 11441 Mitchell St.

Great Lakes Current

Linda Rowe, 88, recently went skydiving in Ray, Michigan.
[Courtesy photos]

88 years young

Linda Rowe takes the leap

BY CHARLA ARNOLD
The Tribune Recorder Leader

RAY, Mich. — At 88 years young, Linda Rowe isn't slowing down. She's still saying yes to adventure — even when the invitation comes as an April Fool's joke.

Rowe, a retired community college teacher and longtime adventurer, recently checked skydiving off her bucket list after an unexpected challenge at Stonegate Village Assisted Living turned into a dream come true.

The idea of skydiving was originally presented to Stonegate residents as an April Fool's joke. While others quickly said no, Rowe simply said yes.

Once she accepted the challenge, her name was submitted to Stonegate's "Make Dreams Happen" initiative, a program designed to help residents achieve meaningful dreams and experiences.

What started as a joke became very real.

Stonegate partnered with Midwest Free Fall in Ray to make Rowe's skydiving adventure pos-



sible. On Sept. 10, a bus filled with Stonegate residents and staff traveled to the drop zone to cheer her on as she prepared to take the leap.

For Rowe, however, skydiving was hardly her first adventure.

Her life has been filled with experiences that would make

impressive entries on anyone's bucket list. She has taken a solo whitewater rafting trip through the Grand Canyon, participated in the Rose Bowl Parade and gone horseback riding through the Superstition Mountains.

Even her move to Michigan came about through an adventure.

Originally from Ohio, Rowe first came to Michigan on vacation. What began as a visit eventually led her to purchase a home with two friends. She later built a home of her own just around the corner from the house she had purchased with her friends.

For Rowe, adventure has never been about waiting for the right time.

She says she feels lucky to be able to continue doing the things she loves, and after taking a literal leap from an airplane at 88, she has some advice for others.

"Don't wait! Do what you want to do and do it now!"

At an age when many people might be content to settle into a quieter routine, Rowe is still looking toward the next adventure — proving that sometimes the best thing you can do when someone asks, even as a joke, is say yes.

Great Lakes Current

Opinion: Voting is the first step

BY SOMMER FOSTER AND MICHEAL DAVIS JR.

When you vote, you are choosing the team that you want to fight for you, your family, and your community. Like with any of life's important decisions, you wouldn't want someone else making them for you, so don't. Make a plan to vote.

Ballots are already available for the Nov. 3 General Election; that means that people are already deciding who will work on behalf of Michiganders for the next several years. We are here to make sure you have what you need to vote.

First, check your voter registration. This takes about two minutes — the same amount of time it takes to brush your teeth. Go to mi.gov/vote and select "Your voter information." Enter your information and see if you're registered to vote at your current address. If you aren't, you can register online or by mail at mi.gov/vote until Monday, Oct. 19. Starting Oct. 20, you must register in person at your city or township clerk's office with proof of residency. You can register and vote until 8 p.m. on Nov. 3.

Second, learn what's on your ballot. Ballot Builder or Vote411.org are nonpartisan resources that explain what and who is on your ballot.

Third, plan how you want to vote. Thanks to Michiganders who have voted repeatedly over the last decade to modernize our elections and make them more accessible, you have lots of options for how to vote in the Nov. 3 General Election.

You can vote from home (or a beach, or your car, or your favorite restaurant) with an absentee ballot. You can request an absentee ballot at mi.gov/vote or by contacting your local clerk. You can also sign up for the permanent mail ballot list and automatically receive a mail ballot for all future elections (we highly recommend this!).

And of course, you have options for returning your ballot, too! You can put it in the mail (we recommend mailing by Oct. 20 to ensure it arrives in time), or you can return your ballot by putting it in a secure drop box in the city or township where you live (be sure

to sign the outer envelope first!).

Or you can take it to an early voting site in your community or (if you live anywhere other than Detroit) to your polling place on Election Day and put it through a tabulator. It's the comfort of voting at home combined with the thrill of voting in person. Your ballot must be received by 8 p.m. on Election Day in order to count, unless you are serving in the military or living overseas, in which case your ballot must be postmarked by Nov. 3 and received by Nov. 9. Make sure to track your ballot at mi.gov/vote.

You can vote early at an early voting site. Statewide early voting starts Saturday, Oct. 24, and runs through Sunday, Nov. 1, for at least eight hours a day. Some communities may offer additional days and hours. Check with your local clerk for their early voting sites and times.

You can vote on Election Day at your polling location. Election Day is Tuesday, Nov. 3, and polls are open 7 a.m.-8 p.m. local time. If you're in line by 8 p.m., stay in line — the polls must remain open until everyone in line has voted. Make sure to check your polling location before you go to vote (these occasionally change).

- Check your voter registration.
- Request an absentee ballot.
- Track your applications and your ballot.
- Find your early voting site.
- Find your drop box.
- Find your Election Day polling location.

Still have questions or need to report a problem voting? Call the nonpartisan Election Protection Hotline at 866-OUR-VOTE, 866-687-8683.

Now it's up to you to decide how and when you want to vote, and to decide who you want to represent you at the local, state, and federal levels. Take control of shaping the future you want, and vote on or before Tuesday, Nov. 3, 2026.

— Sommer Foster is the executive director of Michigan Voices. Micheal Davis Jr. is the executive director of Promote the Vote Fund.



The Attica Township Fire Department was among those departments called for mutual aid to the City of Lapeer for two structure fires early Sunday morning. [Dave Fredrick/The Tri-City Times staff]

Lapeer fire crews battle pair of commercial building blazes

BY DAVE FREDRICK
The Tri-City Times

LAPEER — The Attica Township Fire Department was among several responding to two commercial building fires on Sunday.

According to Lapeer fire officials, two commercial buildings were damaged in separate fires reported just minutes apart. Lapeer Fire and Rescue and Elba Township Fire Department responded just after midnight to the 300 block of North Jefferson Street for a reported structure fire, according to Lapeer Fire and Rescue personnel.

First arriving fire crews found an active fire on the exterior of a commercial building with flames quickly spreading inside the dwelling. Lapeer Fire then requested a second alarm from Central Dispatch, bringing additional personnel and apparatus to the scene.

Firefighters battled the blaze from both inside and outside the building, bringing the fire under control in less than two hours. Firefighters remained on scene for about three hours dousing hot spots and performing overhaul

procedures to extinguish any small fires.

A short time later, a second structure fire was reported to Central Dispatch, this one in the 900 block of Nepessing Street.

While Lapeer and Elba remained on scene of the first fire, multiple mutual aid crews who originally were responding to the first call were diverted to the second call and able to extinguish the flames in a short amount of time.

According to fire officials, the Jefferson Street building sustained heavy fire damage while the West Nepessing Street business sustained minor damage. Fire officials say no injuries were reported.

City of Lapeer Fire and Rescue was assisted by the Elba Township, Attica Township, Metamora Township, Deerfield Township and Davison-Richfield fire departments, along with the Lapeer County Sheriff's Department, Lapeer County EMS and the City of Lapeer Police Department.

Both fires remain under investigation by Lapeer Fire & Rescue and the Lapeer Police Department.

Michigan Proposal 1 aims to reopen state constitution to changes

By LIEZA KLEMM

Proposal 1 is an automatic ballot-referral question, meaning it appears on the ballot at certain intervals or under certain circumstances. The official ballot title is “Shall a convention of elected delegates be convened in 2027 to draft a general revision of the State Constitution for presentation to the state’s voters for their approval or rejection?”

Because of the measure’s status as an automatic ballot-referral question, there is no custom ballot text.

During a constitutional convention, delegates propose amendments and changes to the state constitution. Michigan is one of the states with a process to decide whether to hold a constitutional convention and automatically puts it on the ballot.

A question about whether to hold a state constitutional convention, called a “Con-Con,” is put on the ballot every 16 years, starting in 1978, according to Section 3 of Article XII of the Michigan Constitution. Michigan is among 14 other states with a similar process. In 1960, voters approved the measure through Proposal 3.

Michigan’s last constitution was approved in 1963, making November’s question the state’s longest run without



Mike Ellis/City Pulse

City of Lansing election workers prepared around 23,000 absentee ballots in late September, a record number.

calling a convention.

A strong majority of voters defeated the measure the last three times the question appeared on the ballot in 2010, 1994 and 1978.

If the measure passes, the convention would meet in October 2027. There is no limit on how long the convention would last.

House Speaker Matt Hall (R-Richland Township) and Senate Minority Leader Aric Nesbitt (R-Porter Township) told Michigan Advance last May that they support a convention to rewrite the state’s constitution.

Opponents include United Auto Workers (UAW), the Lansing Regional Chamber of Commerce and the Michigan Education Association (MEA).

UAW said in a statement that voting “No” on Proposal 1 would protect the constitution from corporate and billionaire influence.

In a social media post, the Lansing

Regional Chamber of Commerce said opening up an opportunity to revise the constitution “would create significant uncertainty” when the state should be focused on economic growth.

The MEA is urging voters to reject the proposal. The organization said it would make the constitution vulnerable and allow “anti-public school advocates to privatise schools, open the floodgates for vouchers, and enact anti-union policies statewide.”

Earlier this month, Right to Life of Michigan, a prominent anti-abortion group, joined the list of organizations against the measure.

“While we recognize and applaud the ongoing debate around this issue, RLM is opposed to opening the state constitution to a convention at this time,” Right to Life of Michigan President Amber Roseboom said in a statement. “Moreover, even if a Constitutional Convention were to be called through passage of the question this year, any recommended changes from the delegates would go before the citizens for a popular vote before being ratified. The citizens of our state continue to hold the power. Anyone suggesting otherwise is either misinformed or being intentionally dishonest with voters.”

Michigan Proposal 2 looks to add new campaign contribution limits

By LIEZA KLEMM

The citizen-initiated ballot measure known as the Michigan Utility and Government Contractor Campaign Finance Regulations Initiative is on the ballot in an attempt to regulate campaign finance contributions.

The ballot proposal is in the hands of voters after Senate Majority Leader and current Democratic nominee for Lieutenant Governor Winnie Brinks (D-Grand Rapids) told The Detroit Free Press in August that lawmakers will not vote on a version of the proposal.

Michiganders for Money out of Politics is the coalition sponsoring the measure and includes organizations like Clean Water Action, Michigan League of Conservation Voters and Voters Not Politicians.

Supporting officials include Rep. Donovan McKinney (D-Detroit), current Lieutenant Governor Garlin

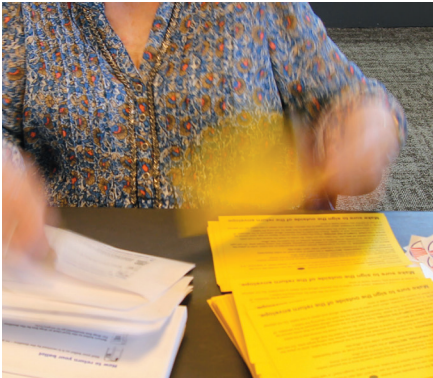
Gilchrist and Secretary of State and Democratic gubernatorial nominee Jocelyn Benson.

Michigan’s U.S. Senate Democratic candidate Abdul El-Sayed also supports the measure and has made “Money Out of Politics” a campaign priority.

Protect MI Free Speech leads the campaign against the proposal. Organizations including Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan PAC and the Michigan Chamber of Commerce also oppose the initiative.

Analysis from the Energy and Policy Institute found that Consumers Energy’s parent company contributed \$15,000 to Protect MI Free Speech. Another \$15,000 was donated by Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan. If the proposal wins the majority vote, both groups will be prohibited from making campaign contributions.

The review also reported that 82% of



current state legislators have received utility PAC money. Gov. Gretchen Whitmer is at the top. She nominates the regulators who manage Michigan utilities. Regulators determine rate increases and profit margins.

Republican Senate Minority Leader Aric Nesbitt, a previous gubernatorial hopeful, falls just behind Whitmer, according to the review.

A “yes” vote supports prohibiting certain organizations and individuals, like those outlined in the proposal’s text, from making direct or indirect contributions to those who run for office. A “yes” vote also supports further regulations for campaign finance laws and spending on political communications.

A “no” vote rejects the proposal.

In addition to the statewide proposals, many Lansing residents will get to vote on a millage proposal and a proposal to add an advisory healthcare board to the city’s constitution.

Here is the text of two statewide ballot proposals as well as two Lansing-specific ones. Look for more coverage on the Lansing proposals in upcoming editions.

State

Proposal 2026-1

A proposal to convene a constitutional convention for the purpose of drafting a general revision of the state constitution

Shall a convention of elected delegates be convened in 2027 to draft a general revision of the State Constitution for presentation to the state’s voters for their approval or rejection?

Proposal 2026-2

A proposed initiated law to prohibit campaign contributions from certain regulated utilities and government contractors and apply campaign finance laws and regulations to additional types of political communications

The proposal would:

- Prohibit regulated electric and gas utilities, contractors with over \$250,000 annually in government contracts, and people and organizations with substantial connections to these utilities/contractors from making direct or indirect campaign contributions to those who run for or hold offices that impact them.
- Expand laws regulating spending on political communications, including those requiring disclosing donor information, to apply to communications clearly identifying candidates or ballot

questions, even if they do not expressly advocate voting for/against them.

- Expressly apply the law requiring disclosure of who paid for political communications to internet political communications.

Should this proposal be adopted?

City

CITY OF LANSING ESSENTIAL SERVICES MILLAGE RESTORATION PROPOSAL

For the purpose of funding essential services, including police protection, fire protection, and local road and sidewalk maintenance, shall the authorized charter millage for the City of Lansing, established at 20 mills (\$20.00 per 19.2214 per 20.00 per .7786 per \$1,000 of taxable value) over the reduced millage, for the next five (5) years (from January 1, 2027 through December 31, 2031 inclusive)?

If approved and levied in full, this re-

newed millage restoration would generate approximately \$2,585,101 in its first year.

CITY OF LANSING CITIZENS’ ADVISORY HEALTHCARE ACTION BOARD CHARTER AMENDMENT

Shall the Lansing City Charter be amended to mandate the creation of a Citizens’ Advisory Healthcare Action Board (“Citizens’ Action Board”) to create a Lansing Healthcare Action Plan and make recommendations to the community to address healthcare costs and healthcare inaccessibility; to prescribe the powers and duties of the Citizens’ Action Board; to prescribe the Citizens’ Action Board’s composition and organization; and to require the publication, a public overview, and recommendations for implementation in the community of the Healthcare Action Plan?



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- AT LEAST 18 YEARS OF AGE (WHEN YOU VOTE)
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The League of Women Voters of the Lansing Area serves the communities of Clinton, Eaton, and Ingham County in Michigan. The LWV of the Lansing Area is a nonpartisan, grassroots organization working to protect and expand voting rights and ensure everyone is represented in our democracy. We empower voters and defend democracy through advocacy and education.

Visit www.vote411.org/mi-lwvla for personalized voter information, tailored to your address.



**Register to
Vote Online**

VOTE NOV 3

SEPT 24	Absentee ballots available
OCT 18	Last day to register online
OCT 20	Best practice-use dropbox not mail for ballots
NOV 3@4PM	Deadline to request an absentee ballot at clerk's office
OCT 24-NOV 1	Early in person voting available
NOV 3	Vote in person. (May bring absentee ballot to polling place)

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Call 844-554-1883 to donate your car, truck, boat, RV, and more today!

How it Works:



1. Contact Us

Call 844-554-1883



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We'll pick up your vehicle for FREE - at a time and place convenient for you.



3. Receive Top Tax Deduction

You may qualify for a tax deduction.

■ Support Veteran Nonprofits.

■ Free Pickup & Towing.

■ Top Tax Deduction.

What kinds of vehicles can I donate?

Veteran Car Donations accepts most cars, trucks, boats, RVs, and motorcycles. We can pick up your vehicle, running or not.

It gets better: your car donation can be picked up within 24 hours, and in some cases even the same day.



How Your Vehicle Donation Helps Veterans

Your vehicle donation directly helps us to provide our nation's heroes with much needed programs and services, such as:

- Essential Medical Care and Mental Health Services
- Mentoring, Job Skills Training, and Employment Assistance
- Food, Emergency Shelter, and Housing for Homeless Veterans
- Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) Therapy and Grief Counseling

Donate Your Vehicle Today

844-554-1883

www.veterancardonations.org/dnt223



Veteran Car Donations

While we appreciate every donation, in some cases, we find that we are unable to accept certain vehicles, watercraft, and/or recreational vehicles due to the prohibitive costs of acquisition. If you have any questions, please give us a call at 844-554-1883.

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STATE OF MICHIGAN
IN THE INGHAM COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT

In re: Petition of Ingham County Land Bank Fast Track Authority for Expedited Quiet Title and Foreclosure of Certain Parcels of Real Property

Case No. 26-4461-CH
Hon. Rosemarie E. Aquilina

Timothy M. Perrone (P37940)
COHL, STOKER & TOSKEY, P.C.
Attorneys for Petitioner
601 N. Capitol Ave.
Lansing, MI 48933
(517) 372-9000

THIS PROPERTY HAS BEEN TRANSFERRED TO THE INGHAM COUNTY LAND BANK FAST TRACK AUTHORITY AND IS SUBJECT TO AN EXPEDITED QUIET TITLE AND FORECLOSURE ACTION. PERSONS WITH INFORMATION REGARDING THE PRIOR OWNER OF THE PROPERTY ARE REQUESTED TO CONTACT THE LAND BANK FAST TRACK AUTHORITY AT 3024 N. TURNER ST., LANSING, MICHIGAN 48906, TELEPHONE (517) 267-5221.

Respectfully submitted,
COHL, STOKER & TOSKEY, P.C.

Date: September 8, 2026

/s/ Timothy M. Perrone
Timothy M. Perrone (P37940)
Attorney for Petitioner
601 N. Capitol Ave.
Lansing, MI 48933
(517) 372-9000

NOTICE OF HEARING

To: Estate of Larry Belt, Timothy Hart, Estate of Mark T. Seman, Susan K. Olson, and all persons having an interest in the subject properties listed in Exhibit A

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a hearing on the Petition of Ingham County Land Bank Fast Track Authority for Expedited Quiet Title and Foreclosure of Certain Parcels of Real Property shall be held before the Honorable Rosemarie E. Aquilina, Ingham County Circuit Judge, at the Veterans Memorial Courthouse, 313 W. Kalamazoo St., Lansing, MI 48933, on **Wednesday, October 21, 2026, at 3:00 p.m.**, or as soon thereafter as counsel may be heard.

This Notice pertains to the real property located in the City of Lansing, County of Ingham, State of Michigan, as set forth in Exhibit A.

Notice of Pending Expedited Quiet Title and Foreclosure Action (Form 4329) for each of the subject properties was recorded with the Ingham County Register of Deeds on September 4, 2026.

Judgment of the Court after this hearing may result in title to the property vesting in the Ingham County Land Bank Fast Track Authority, 3024 N. Turner St., Lansing, MI 48906 – Telephone (517) 267-5221.

Any persons with information regarding the owner or prior owner of the subject properties are requested to contact the Land Bank.

Any rights of redemption and any ownership interest in the subject properties may be extinguished by the judgment of the Court.

Any person with a property interest in the subject properties may lose his or her interest, if any, as a result of the quiet title and foreclosure hearing.

EXHIBIT A

Individual parcels of property located in the City of Lansing, County of Ingham, State of Michigan, legally described as:

1. East ½ of North 94 feet of Lot 7, Block 3, Jerome's Addition, Lansing, Ingham County, Michigan, according to the recorded plat thereof, Ingham County Records.
Parcel ID #33-01-01-15-154-171
Commonly known as 922 Vine St., Lansing, MI 48912
2. Lot 17, Devonshire Subdivision, Lansing, Ingham County, Michigan, according to the recorded plat thereof, as recorded in Liber 13 of Plats, Page 26, Ingham County Records.
Parcel ID #33-01-01-27-128-021
Commonly known as 1915 Devonshire Ave., Lansing, MI 48910
3. Lot 202, Maple Hill Subdivision, Lansing, Ingham County, Michigan, according to the recorded plat thereof, as recorded in Liber 8 of Plats, Page 33, Ingham County Records.
Parcel ID #33-01-01-33-284-001
Commonly known as 600 Fenton Ave., Lansing, MI 48910
4. West 75 feet of Lot 1, Marywood Subdivision, Lansing, Ingham County, Michigan, according to the recorded plat thereof, Ingham County Records.
Parcel ID #33-01-05-08-227-311
Commonly known as 811 W. Miller Rd., Lansing, MI 48911

ARTS & CULTURE

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To boldly go ...

Beloved sci-fi franchise 'Star Trek' celebrates 60 years

By **KURT ANTHONY KRUG**

Michigan State University alumnus Michael DeMeritt has fond memories of working as the first assistant director on "Star Trek: Voyager" and "Star Trek: Enterprise," both of which are part of the greater "Star Trek" franchise that turned 60 earlier this month.

He got to meet the very best people in their respective professions — the best actors, the best crew members, the best stunt performers, the best extras.

"I've seen ('Voyager' stars) Robert Beltran and Ethan Phillips having comedy wars that made my sides hurt from laughter. I watched ('Enterprise' star) Scott Bakula identify a frame position without the benefit of a monitor just from being told the lens size so many times; I still can't believe he can do that," DeMeritt said. "Jeri Ryan changed the world. Kate Mulgrew showed us the captain we all would want. I've seen many actors become the best directors in TV, including LeVar Burton, Jonathan Frakes, Robert Duncan McNeill and Roxann Dawson."

DeMeritt and fellow "Voyager" assistant director Arlene Fukai gave the three Roberts on the show — actors Beltran, McNeill and Robert Picardo — their monikers Robert, Robbie and Bob, respectively, and they've gone by them ever since. DeMeritt has been mentioned in books, spoken on podcasts and appeared in the 2024 documentary "To the Journey: Looking Back at 'Star Trek: Voyager.'"

"I've told one man to set fire to another man, told yet another person to push him down a ladder while the guy was on fire, told other people to put out the flames before they killed him, and had that person come up to me, still smoldering, and say, 'Good job, Mike.' 'Trek' was fun. No regrets," DeMeritt said.

He compared and contrasted his time on both shows.

"'Voyager' had some stressful elements: a captain (Geneviève Bujold) who quit, a new cast member (Ryan) getting more press than the current ones and a push and pull over a female lead (Mulgrew). That seems ridiculous

now, but it was a risk in those days. But that cast was a lot of fun to be around," he said. "'Enterprise' had a well-oiled machine running it — just top-notch crew work there, and the cast was super professional. 'Enterprise' had more of a struggle to find itself, but it was awesome when it finally did.

"Both were great experiences. Both were ungodly long hours. Both are shows I still hold as my best professional work."

Humble beginnings and a second life

Created by the late Gene Roddenberry, "Star Trek" debuted on NBC on Sept. 8, 1966, starring William Shatner as Capt. James T. Kirk and the late Leonard Nimoy as Mr. Spock. The first pilot was 1965's "The Cage," starring the

See 'Star Trek', Page 28



Courtesy Michael DeMeritt

Michigan State University alumnus Michael DeMeritt (left) and actress Kate Mulgrew on the set of "Star Trek: Voyager" in the mid-1990s.



Courtesy Michael DeMeritt

The "Star Trek: Voyager" stars get ready to assassinate the assistant directors, who are on their knees. From left: Robert Beltran (Cmdr. Chakotay), Lorri Fischer, Tim Russ (Lt. Tuvok), Arlene Fukai, Jeri Ryan (Seven of Nine), Michael DeMeritt, Robert Duncan McNeill (Lt. Paris) and Michael Risner.

'Star Trek'

from page 27

late Jeffrey Hunter as Capt. Christopher Pike (now played by Anson Mount on "Star Trek: Strange New Worlds"), but it never aired until 1988.

NBC executives called the pilot "too cerebral" and "too slow." However, they liked the concept and commissioned a second pilot — something unheard of — called "Where No Man Has Gone Before." Since Hunter decided to focus on his film career, Pike was replaced with Kirk on "Star Trek: The Original Series," which ran until 1969.

Still, "Trek" struggled in the ratings. NBC cancelled it after three seasons and replaced it with "Bracken's World."

"If you polled the entire human population and asked, 'You know that mediocre, barely surviving television show on Friday nights at 10 o'clock with nobody watching?' I don't think you'd find anyone saying it would still be in our consciousness 60 years later," Shatner told USA Today in August.

However, "Trek" found a new life in syndication. That's how Grosse Pointe native and MSU alumnus Charlie Carden, host of the "Secret Friends Unite" podcast and co-host of the "Code 47" podcast, discovered the franchise in 1982.

The success of 1977's "Star Wars" also helped. In 1979, "Star Trek: The Motion Picture" was released with the original cast. This spawned 12 more movies on the big screen and 12 TV series, including the aforementioned "Voyager" and "Enterprise," as well as "Star Trek: The Next Generation." There's been plenty of merchandise and other media tie-ins, such as comic books, novels, video games, toys and even fan-funded films.

"When (1986's) 'Star Trek IV: The Voyage Home' hit the big screen, 10-year-old me was hooked," Carden said. "It also helped that both of my parents were OG fans and enjoyed 'TNG' when it launched in 1987."

Carden reviewed the novels in his column for The State News, MSU's student-run newspaper. For his podcast, he's interviewed many "Trek" cast and crew members, including Frakes, McNeill, Tim Russ ("Voyager") and Nana Visitor ("Star Trek: Deep Space Nine"), among others.

"I've found them to be accessible, friendly, kind and down-to-earth people," he said. "It's barely hyperbole to say we live in a time when we need hope for a better tomorrow. Frankly, that's been the case since well before 1966. The comfort of revisiting nearly 1,000 episodes and movies about reaching for the future and becoming a better humani-



Courtesy Star Trek Archive

The cast of "Star Trek: The Original Series," which ran from 1966 to 1969. From left: Mr. Scott (James Doohan), Mr. Chekov (Walter Koenig), Dr. McCoy (DeForest Kelley), Nurse Chapel (Majel Barrett), Capt. Kirk (William Shatner), Lt. Uhura (Nichelle Nichols), Mr. Spock (Leonard Nimoy) and Mr. Sulu (George Takei).

ty is what keeps people coming back to 'Trek.'"

USA Today best-selling author Keith R.A. DeCandido, who's penned numerous "Trek" novels, agreed.

"'Star Trek' has continued to thrive for six decades because its message has remained a constant one of hope and optimism," DeCandido said. "It gives us a future where compassion and cooperation and communication are key to solving problems, not violence, not who has the bigger gun, not who can win in a fight. That aspirational future is why we keep coming back to it."

The first female captain

Following the success of "TNG" and "DS9," "Voyager" ran from 1995 to 2001. What made it unique was it was the first ongoing "Trek" series with a female main character. Mulgrew portrayed Capt. Kathryn Janeway, replacing Bujold, who left the show early on.

"I'll tell you a story: At the end of season one, (then-First Lady) Hillary Rodham Clinton invited me to the White House to speak to women in science," Mulgrew said. "I was astonished! I'm just an actress on TV playing this character. Paramount was taking a great leap of faith putting a woman in the captain's chair. Never in a million years did they dream the first lady would be

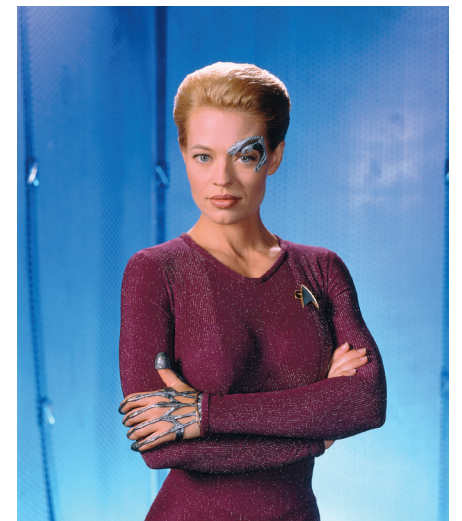


Courtesy Star Trek Archive

Kate Mulgrew played Capt. Kathryn Janeway on "Star Trek: Voyager."

inviting me to the White House to speak to women in science, but I went.

"There was a sea of female faces — wide-eyed, smart — staring at me," she continued. "I threw my little speech away and said, 'I have nothing to say to you. It is I who will learn from you. I want to answer all of your questions; let's have the conversation.' And they said, 'If it weren't for Janeway, I would've stayed in the office, but now I'm in the field and going up.' And indeed they were."



Courtesy Star Trek Archive

Jeri Ryan played fan-favorite character Seven of Nine on "Star Trek: Voyager" and later reprised the role on "Star Trek: Picard."

Janeway is former Lansing resident Laura Conner's favorite captain.

"I've watched 'Star Trek' for as long as I can remember. I grew up with the movies starring the original cast and watched 'TNG' when I could," she said. "When I started watching 'Voyager,' I was so impressed with the female captain. I loved that it wasn't all about short

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'Star Trek'

from page 28

skirts and love stories. There were new aliens, and Janeway learned new ways to combat them. Kate Mulgrew showed a strength and endurance that I'd never seen with previous 'Star Trek' shows. I would be first in line to see a 'Voyager' movie or reboot!"

The popularity of Seven of Nine

Ryan joined "Voyager" in the fourth season as Seven of Nine, a former Borg drone who joins the titular starship's crew. She replaced Jennifer Lien, alias Kes, who left the series. Seven became one of the franchise's most popular characters, even though Ryan initially turned down the role.

"I wasn't terribly attracted to it originally because I wasn't a science-fiction fan. I am now. I've since repented," Ryan said, laughing. "I didn't know much about 'Star Trek' beyond the fact that it had a reputation for its actors getting pigeonholed and not being able to break out and do anything else. It was early enough in my career that that was not a very appealing prospect."

Her agent convinced her to read two scenes, though.

"One of them was the now-infamous 'take off your clothes' scene with Harry Kim (Garrett Wang)," Ryan recalled. "The other was a scene we ended up never shooting, but it was one of the most beautifully written scenes I've ever read for any project. It was a scene of Seven having her first memory of laughter. From that scene, I was able to see what the potential for this character really was. That's what sold me on it."

Seven undeniably revitalized the series' creative direction and ratings, giving it a fresh dynamic.

"I know that Paramount made no bones about the fact that they saw this as their chance to break 'Star Trek' into the mainstream media. The publicity machine went into overdrive," Ryan said. "For my career, it was great; for me personally, it was great; for the show, it was great. The writers had been writing the same seven characters for the previous three years, so they were salivating to have a new character to write for."

Seven was present in a major capacity in every episode that followed. If she wasn't the main storyline, she was the strong secondary storyline.

"I was lucky, and the writing was great," Ryan said. "This was a beautifully written character, and that worked out to the benefit of all the characters because there was so much conflict and



Photo by Nicole Wilder/Paramount+

From left: Seven of Nine (Jeri Ryan), Adm. Jean-Luc Picard (Sir Patrick Stewart) and Capt. William T. Riker (Jonathan Frakes) in a scene from "Star Trek: Picard."

so much growth. I mean, she started out human and ended up being Borg, so she had to learn how to be human again. There was a lot of incredibly rich stuff to get to explore."

Ryan spoke about joining "Voyager" midway through the series.

"They were writing off a character who had been there since the beginning and adding a new character. That's always awkward in the best of circumstances. But I was an Army brat growing up, so I've been the new kid a lot," she said. "When I first joined the cast of 'Voyager,' I can't remember if it was Jonathan Frakes or (co-creator) Rick Berman who said to me, 'You're getting on a moving freight train, and you have no idea how fast it's going until you're on it.' That was such an accurate description."

Ryan reprised her role as Seven on all three seasons of "Star Trek: Picard."

"At that point, a lot of time had passed and I had done a lot of other stuff in my career, so I wasn't afraid of going back to the role," she said. "It was really fun — and scary as hell! She was so different, especially when I read the first draft of the script. It was hard trying to find her voice because she was so, so different. I was panicking because I couldn't hear her, I couldn't find her."

She ran scenes with actor Jonathan Del Arco, alias Hugh the Borg (who is appearing at Motor City Comic Con in Novi Nov. 13 through 15).

"He threw out the simplest idea that was exactly what I needed: 'What if she just made the conscious choice to sound and act as human as she can?' That

made perfect sense. I just needed that little hook and it all made sense and fell right into place," Ryan recalled.

In the "Picard" series finale in 2023, Seven became captain of the Enterprise.

"I would've never in a million years come up with making her the captain of the Enterprise! That came out of left field," Ryan said. "When ('Picard' showrunner) Terry Matalas told me that was his plan, I was beyond shocked. It was a fantastic, full circle moment for this character, which I thought was beautiful."

That begs the question: Will there be a new "Trek" series with Seven commanding the Enterprise? Even Ryan can't say.

"If there's one thing I've learned with this franchise, it's never say never," she said. "I was sure that I had said goodbye to this character 25 years ago. Who knows at this point?"

Despite her initial misgivings about playing Seven, Ryan called the role an "absolute gift" for an actor.

"I was lucky enough to go on to do other roles, other series, and many other things," she said. "Being best known for this is not anything I'm upset about at all. I know I'm repeating myself, but this character was such a rare gift. How often do you get to play a character for this long and go through this much of her life? To start as a human child who was assimilated and raised by machines in a hive mind and to relearn how to be a human, relearn how to be an individual — it's a pretty remarkable arc, so I've been very, very lucky."

Clinging to the hope of a better world

Ryan and Elizabeth Dennehy, who had a recurring role as Lt. Cmdr. (later Admiral) Elizabeth Shelby on "TNG" and "Picard," shared their insights about the staying power of "Trek."

"I believe Roddenberry envisioned a world without status, where nobody could lord superiority over others and use that power to make someone feel inferior," Dennehy said. "An equitable and fair world where everyone could live their best life, be happy and free. It seems right now more of a fantasy than ever, which is why I believe people cling to that dream more fervently with each passing year. We need and cling to the hope of a better world."

Ryan is awed by how long "Trek" has been around.

"It's pretty crazy — six decades! It's an amazing thing to be a part of, I have to be honest," she said. "What makes it so unique and what's made it have such longevity is that it's always held a mirror up to society, but in a non-threatening way. What it does so beautifully is it gives us an optimistic view of what we could achieve if we stop being afraid of everything that's different, everyone who's different, and start embracing those differences and celebrating those differences. I think it's such a beautiful message and just as important now as it was in the 1960s when Roddenberry created it."

State of Michigan, 54-A District Court, Ingham County, 124 W. Michigan Ave., Lansing, MI 48933, (517) 483-4433: ORDER REGARDING ALTERNATE SERVICE, Case No. 26-03227-GC, Fred and Louisa Flatz v Trevor Dornbos. THE COURT FINDS (1) service of process upon the defendant, Trevor Dornbos, cannot reasonably be made as provided in MCR 2.105 and service of process may be made in a manner that is reasonably calculated to give the defendant actual notice of the proceedings and an opportunity to be heard. IT IS ORDERED (2) service of the summons and complaint and a copy of this order shall be made by the following method(s): A. First-class mail to 415 W. Kalamazoo St., Lansing MI 48933. Other: Publication in the Lansing City Pulse for 3 consecutive weeks in accordance with MCR 2.106(D)(1) and certified mail return receipt requested to last known address (415 W. Kalamazoo St., Lansing, MI 48933). Plaintiff's name: Fred & Louisa Flatz. Attorney: Aaron D. Cox (P69346), 23820 Eureka Rd., Taylor, MI 48180, (734) 287-3664.

CP#26-371

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CITY OF LANSING
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Lansing City Council will hold a public hearing on Monday, October 12, 2026, at 7:00 p.m. in the Tony Benavides City of Lansing Council Chambers, Tenth Floor, Lansing City Hall, 124 West Michigan Ave. Lansing, MI 48933, for the purpose stated below:

To afford an opportunity for all residents, taxpayers of the City of Lansing, City Assessor, other interested persons and ad valorem taxing units to appear and be heard on the approval of an Obsolete Property Rehabilitation District (the "District"), pursuant to and in accordance with the provisions of the Obsolete Property Rehabilitation Act, Public Act 146 of 2000, for property located at 1515 West Mount Hope Avenue in the City of Lansing, Michigan, legally described as:

1515 West Mount Hope Avenue (Tax Parcel No. 33-01-01-29-126-132):
COM 50 FT S & 200 FT W OF N 1/4 POST SEC 29, TH S 230 FT, W 60 FT, N 230 FT, E 60 FT TO BEG; SEC 29 T4N R2W AND THAT PART OF THE EAST 1/2 OF NORTHWEST 1/4 OF SECTION 29, 'F4 1, R2W, CITY OF LANSING, INGHAM COUNTY MICHIGAN DESCRIBED AS; COMMENCING AT THE NORTH 1/4 POST OF SAID SECTION 29, T4N, H2W 4 THENCE SOUTH 50.0 FEET OF THE NORTH-SOUTH 1/4 LINE, THENCE WESTERLY 260.00 FEET PARALLEL WITH THE NORTH SECTION LINE AND ON THE SOUTH LINE OF MT. HOPE AVENUE, THENCE SOUTH, 130.40 FEET PARALLEL WITH THE N-S 1/4 LINE OF SECTION 29, TO THE NORTH LINE OF A TWO STORY BRICK BUILDING AND THE POINT OF BEGINNING OF THE FOLLOWING DESCRIBED PARCEL; THENCE WESTERLY 0.24 FEET ALONG SAID NORTH BUILDING LINE; THENCE SOUTHERLY 22.80 FEET ALONG THE WEST LINE OF SAID TWO STORY BRICK BUILDING; THENCE EASTERLY 0.25 FEET ALONG THE SOUTHERLY LINE OF SAID TWO STORY BRICK BUILDING; THENCE NORTH 22.80 FEET PARALLEL WITH THE N-S 1/4 LINE OF SECTION 29 TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING;
Approval of this District will allow the owners of real property within the District to apply for an abatement of certain property taxes for the improvements to their property located within the District. Further information regarding this issue may be obtained from Kris Klein, President & CEO, Lansing Economic Development Corporation (LEDCE), 401 S. Washington Sq. Suite 101, Lansing, MI 48933, (517) 599-1136.

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

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

CP#26-366

Upcoming comic cons around the state

Michigan Anthro Weekend

Thursday, Oct. 1-Sunday, Oct. 4
Sheraton Grand Rapids Airport
Hotel

5700 28th St. SE, Grand Rapids
Focused on anthropomorphic
(furry) fandoms and artwork. 18+
event.
michigananthroweekend.com

Grand Rapids Comic Con

Oct. 23-25
DeVos Place
303 Monroe Ave. NW, Grand Rapids
West Michigan's largest pop culture
show with lots of cosplay, a long guest
list and a family-friendly atmosphere.
grcomiccon.com

C2PC

Oct. 30-Nov.1
Dow Diamond
825 E. Main St., Midland
Vendors, cosplay, a fandom lounge

with karaoke and games, and door
prizes every 15 minutes. All inside a
working baseball stadium. Family
priced (kids 12 & under free).
c2pcexpo.com

Youmacon

Oct. 28-Nov. 1
Huntington Place
1 Washington Blvd., Detroit
One of the largest anime, gaming
and comic events in the Midwest.
youmacon.com

Motor City Comic Con
(fall edition)

Nov. 13-15
Vibe Credit Union Showplace
46100 Grand River Ave., Novi
Metro Detroit's largest comic con,
featuring national celebrity guests,
massive artist alleys and comic writ-
ers.
motorcitycomiccon.com

CITY OF LANSING
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Lansing City Council will hold a public hearing on Monday, October 12, 2026, at 7:00 p.m. in the Tony Benavides City of Lansing Council Chambers, Tenth Floor, Lansing City Hall, 124 West Michigan Ave. Lansing, MI 48933, for the purpose stated below:

To afford an opportunity for all residents, taxpayers of the City of Lansing, other interested persons and ad valorem taxing units to appear and be heard on the approval of an Obsolete Property Rehabilitation Certificate (the "Certificate"), pursuant to and in accordance with the provisions of the Obsolete Property Rehabilitation Act, Public Act 146 of 2000, for property located at 1515 West Mount Hope Avenue located in the City of Lansing, but more particularly described as:

1515 West Mount Hope Avenue (Tax Parcel No. 33-01-01-29-126-132):

COM 50 FT S & 200 FT W OF N 1/4 POST SEC 29, TH S 230 FT, W 60 FT, N 230 FT, E 60 FT TO BEG; SEC 29 T4N R2W AND THAT PART OF THE EAST 1/2 OF NORTHWEST 1/4 OF SECTION 29, 'F4 1, R2W, CITY OF LANSING, INGHAM COUNTY MICHIGAN DESCRIBED AS; COMMENCING AT THE NORTH 1/4 POST OF SAID SECTION 29, T4N, H2W 4 THENCE SOUTH 50.0 FEET OF THE NORTH-SOUTH 1/4 LINE, THENCE WESTERLY 260.00 FEET PARALLEL WITH THE NORTH SECTION LINE AND ON THE SOUTH LINE OF MT. HOPE AVENUE, THENCE SOUTH, 130.40 FEET PARALLEL WITH THE N-S 1/4 LINE OF SECTION 29, TO THE NORTH LINE OF A TWO STORY BRICK BUILDING AND THE POINT OF BEGINNING OF THE FOLLOWING DESCRIBED PARCEL; THENCE WESTERLY 0.24 FEET ALONG SAID NORTH BUILDING LINE; THENCE SOUTHERLY 22.80 FEET ALONG THE WEST LINE OF SAID TWO STORY BRICK BUILDING; THENCE EASTERLY 0.25 FEET ALONG THE SOUTHERLY LINE OF SAID TWO STORY BRICK BUILDING; THENCE NORTH 22.80 FEET PARALLEL WITH THE N-S 1/4 LINE OF SECTION 29 TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING

Approval of this Certificate will provide the owner or potentially the developer of property an abatement of certain property taxes for the improvements to the property noted above. Further information regarding this issue may be obtained from Kris Klein, Lansing Economic Development Corporation, 401 S. Washington Sq. Suite. 101, Lansing, MI 48933, 517-599-1136.

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

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

CP#26-365

‘Rollercoaster of emotion’

Scott Seaton rolls out the Romantics in LSO opener

By **LAWRENCE COSENTINO**

In a delightful 30-second YouTube clip called “The Scream,” conductor Scott Seaton and California’s North State Symphony pour all their might into the sudden spank that launches the finale of Igor Stravinsky’s “The Firebird,” causing a lady in the audience to emit a gurgling scream.

Seaton is the first of five guest conductors to appear with the Lansing Symphony this season to determine who will fill the shoes of retired maestro Timothy Muffitt.

Seaton puts a lot of time, energy and thought into looking for ways to break down traditional barriers and connect directly with audiences, but that scream was a gift from the blue.

Laughter spread from the audience to the musicians as they struggled to keep up with Stravinsky’s blistering, complex music. Without missing a beat, Seaton smiled, glanced over his shoulder and gave the audience a wink.

“It was this moment of connection, and it was incredibly important,” he recalled. “I wanted to let them know it was fine. Someone had a natural reaction.”

Seaton is in his 12th season as music director of the North State Symphony. He is also in his fifth season as artistic director of the Signature Symphony in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

On the podium, he combines marathon-runner energy (he really is one) with the multi-level manipulations of a chess player (he’s that, too).

“Of course, you have to do a million things at once and think way ahead, but you also have to be ready for anything,” he said.

Taking a cue from one of his idols, longtime Boston Symphony maestro Seiji Ozawa, Seaton compared conducting to riding a horse.

“As a rider of that horse, you have almost zero power to do that jump, but it’s more about realizing you are sitting back and trusting that everything that is supposed to happen will happen,” he said. “That’s when that energy comes to life and everything happens the way it’s supposed to.”

Besides turning himself inside out to put the music across, he has introduced theatrical elements, including



Courtesy

Scott Seaton is the first of five guest conductors to appear with the Lansing Symphony this season to determine who will fill the shoes of retired maestro Timothy Muffitt.

actors in the audience and on stage, fusions of electronic and orchestral music and new works by composers with diverse audience appeal.

“The more you can break down the barriers and make it an immersive experience — concerts like that are extraordinarily fun to do,” he said. “I’d like to see how far we could go, especially in a place like Lansing, where you can be more creative.”

For an initiative called “Just Ask,” audience members submit questions during intermission via social media.

Seaton and the evening’s guest artist sit on the edge of the stage and answer them at the beginning of the second half.

“In 15 years, that’s one of the most fun things I’ve implemented in the concert hall,” he said. “It’s not a pre-concert talk or anything like that. It’s just, ‘This is me, the human side of us.’ I could definitely see something like that being fun to do in a place like Lansing.”

From shortly after birth to first grade, Seaton lived in various towns in Michigan, including Lake Orion and Lapeer.

“I remember shoveling snow in shorts and a T-shirt,” he said. “I was

one of those crazy kids. I have a lot of family in Michigan, and they’ll be coming to the concert.”

Like most kids, Seaton watched cartoons growing up, but he zeroed in on the music more than the on-screen mayhem. Henry Mancini’s slinky “Pink Panther Theme” seduced him into picking up a saxophone.

His mother, Becky Carder, and his stepfather, Steve Collom, pushed him to study more seriously. Collom was a singer-songwriter who played with Dolly Parton and wrote music for Jerry Lee Lewis.

“He heard me practicing in the basement, and it was going badly,” Seaton said. “He took the music off the stand and said, ‘Go put on a recording, figure out what you hear and play it on the saxophone.’ That’s really what started me developing my ear.” After moving to the rural outskirts of Nashville, Tennessee, where his stepdad was plugged into the musical scene, Seaton tried out for band in seventh grade and was unexpectedly thrust into a leadership role.

“Because I already had a year of saxophone under my belt from the Michigan public school system, I was often called upon to be the example,” he said. “That’s where the early conducting seeds were planted.”

Incredibly, when Seaton was in ninth grade, the high school band

director entrusted the ensemble not only with Aaron Copland’s “Billy the Kid,” but also with Stravinsky’s savage musical orgy “The Rite of Spring.” There was no bassoon player, so Seaton played the famous opening solo on saxophone.

“I was the only one on the field, squawking out this ‘ooo-wa-de-oh-de-waaa,’” he said. “You can imagine how unpopular that was at football games. But just being exposed to this core classical repertoire — I don’t know when that would have happened to me otherwise.”

“The Rite of Spring” became his favorite piece. (Note: The LSO hasn’t played the ferocious work since 1996. Just saying.)

At Vanderbilt University, Seaton got a plum appointment as one of the assistant conductors for the superb Nashville Youth Symphony.

“Every week I was in college, I was privileged to conduct one of the best youth orchestras,” he said. “I guess the rest is history.”

He has conducted orchestras around the world, but he’s spent a lot of time in the American Midwest, appearing with the Cincinnati, Milwaukee and Detroit symphony orchestras.

He described Friday’s program at the Wharton Center as a “rollercoaster of emotion.”

The concert pairs major works by Felix Mendelssohn and Hector Berlioz, two “Romantic pioneers trying to figure out which direction to go,” Seaton said.

Mendelssohn’s violin concerto takes the dewy, innocent path, with “extraordinary sincerity and a direct line to the heart,” in Seaton’s words. Boston-born Japanese-American violinist Keila Wakao will serve as soloist.

Berlioz’s “Symphonie Fantastique,” by contrast, heads into satanic, opium-overdose territory.

“He shows us this classical restraint at first but then pushes it way beyond the envelope, not just to the point of obsession, but into fantasy and even nightmare,” Seaton said.

It so happens that the five-minute rouser that opens the concert, Anna Clyne’s “Masquerade,” also begins with a brisk, sudden spank, but no screams are anticipated. Lansing is a sophisticated town, after all.

Lansing Symphony Orchestra

Scott Seaton, guest conductor
Keila Wakao, violin
7:30 p.m. Friday, Oct. 2
Wharton Center Cobb Great Hall
750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing
lansingsymphony.org

Book explores Northern Michigan's climate haven potential

By JULIA BELDEN
Capital News Service

LANSING — With its magnificent sand dunes, sparkling blue-green water and bucolic cherry orchards, Northern Michigan is a paradise for residents and visitors.

The region's temperate climate, buffeted by the Great Lakes, also makes it a hotspot for climate migration, a theme explored in "This Magnetic North" (Michigan State University Press, \$34.95), a new book by Tim Mulherin.

Mulherin lives in Indianapolis but frequently visits the Traverse City area, where his family owns a cottage. A writer and former school administrator, he fell in love with Northern Michigan in the mid-1980s after driving there to visit a friend.

"I was on M-72 coming from Kalkaska — there's a ridge you go over and suddenly you can see Grand Traverse Bay," said Mulherin.

"I was floored. I pulled the car over and got out. I didn't realize the Midwest

had something that beautiful because I'd always been in Indianapolis since I was 10 years old."

Mulherin said the idea for the book came from a conversation with his friend Dave Dempsey, a senior policy advisor at Traverse City-based nonprofit FLOW (For Love of Water) and a fellow author.

"We started talking about book ideas and (Dempsey) threw out the term 'climate migrants,' Mulherin said.

Climate migration, according to the Migration Policy Institute, occurs when people are displaced by climate change-related drivers.

While the Great Lakes are known for their unpredictable nature, the region is relatively unaffected by severe weather events such as hurricanes, wildfires, excessive flooding and extreme heat.

This makes areas like Northern Michigan attractive to people looking to relocate to escape environmental disasters.

"Intrigued" by the potential changes to Northern Michigan driven by climate

change, Mulherin set out to learn more, interviewing officials, business and nonprofit leaders, Indigenous people and other residents.

"This Magnetic North" is structured around these conversations, with farmers, conservation officers, a local sheriff and even an astronomer lending their perspectives on the area's evolution.

Mulherin said he talked to over 90 people over the course of his research for the book and was "pleasantly surprised" that regardless of political stances, all had one thing in common: they loved Northern Michigan.

"Water is such a spiritual thing for humans," Mulherin said.

For many, Northern Michigan — or "Up North," as it's often called — is a dream destination, but some locals aren't thrilled about welcoming newcomers, Mulherin said.

"The book's working title was 'Last One in, Shut the Door.'"

Those wishing to relocate to the area may encounter a hefty price tag: According to Zillow, the average sale price for Traverse City homes is nearly \$450,000 — significantly higher than Michigan's overall average of \$266,000.



The Great Lakes region continues to inspire Mulherin. He says his next book will be an exploration of Indiana and Michigan wildlife.

"I think sometimes the land kind of reaches out and has a hold on you. It's not about you deciding that you want to be there — it's saying you belong there."

Julia Belden writes for Great Lakes Echo.

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Croptober meets the wholesale tax squeeze

Can Michigan's sun-grown market survive the harvest?

By CHRIS SILVA

If you drive past the agricultural fields just outside Lansing or up through the west side of the state right now, the smell of weed hits you before the hoop houses even come into view. It's late September, which means "Croptober" is officially here.

For as long as cannabis has been legal in the Mitten, the autumn harvest has followed a predictable, almost rhythmic pattern. Millions of square feet of sun-grown flower mature all at once, hitting the market in a massive wave of biomass. In years past, that sudden flood has triggered a temporary seasonal glut. Prices plummet, processors buy up cheap flower by the truckload for concentrates and edibles, and indoor boutique cultivators hold their breath until inventory clears out around January.

However, this is the first fall harvest operating under Michigan's 24% wholesale tax framework, and the math facing cultivators and processors has never looked quite this brutal.

To understand why this harvest is different, you have to look at where the retail shelf sits right now. According to the latest numbers from the Cannabis Regulatory Agency, average adult-use flower prices are hovering around \$58 to \$59 an ounce. For consumers, that's a golden era. You can walk into nearly any shop along Cedar Street or Michigan Avenue, drop a \$50 bill and walk out with solid smoke.

For the folks growing that weed, however, the margins have become paper thin.

With the Department of Treasury setting the state's wholesale benchmark for flower around \$640 a pound, a 24% tax hit at the wholesale level adds roughly \$150 per pound in tax burden before a single bag even moves onto a delivery vehicle. In a high-margin market where flower sells for \$3,000 a pound, a 24% tax is an annoying line item. In a saturated market where sun-grown biomass yields as little as \$200 to \$400 a pound for processing extraction, that same tax becomes an existential threat.

The real pressure point of this harvest isn't actually the dispensary shelf — it's the extraction lab.

Historically, Croptober harvests don't all end up in pre-rolls or jars. A massive percentage of sun-grown flower goes straight into hydrocarbon labs and ethanol extractors to be turned into distillate, live resin, vape carts and gummies.



Processors rely on this fall harvest to stock up on raw material for the upcoming year.

This fall, processors are caught in a double bind. First, they have to figure out how to calculate the wholesale tax on raw plant material coming in from outdoor farms, knowing full well that finished products like carts and edibles are already facing extreme price resistance from consumers.

Second, they're doing it under the watchful, uncompromising eye of a CRA that has made enforcement its top priority. Just this month, the agency finalized a historic \$2 million fine and license revocation against a Pinconning processor following a multi-year investigation into extraction room compliance and inventory tracking. The message from regulators in Lansing is clear: If you try to get creative with your biomass tracking or off-the-books processing to dodge tax hits, the state will shut your doors permanently.

In the middle of this squeeze between high tax rates and low wholesale prices, a quiet pivot is happening among mid-Michigan's independent and craft operators. For years, the mantra in Michigan cannabis was sheer scale — grow as many plants as the license allows, pack the hoop houses and churn out raw weight. But when raw weight yields slim margins after taxation, scale stops working as a safety net.

Instead, smaller outdoor and hybrid grows around Lansing are double indexing on quality-driven processing. Rather than selling off bulk biomass to commercial extractors for pennies on the dollar, more and more independent cultivators are partnering directly with boutique processors to produce sol-

ventless live rosin, ice-water hash and fresh-frozen craft drops.

These solventless, terpene-heavy products command higher retail price points and foster fierce brand loyalty among knowledgeable consumers. By shifting focus from cheap volume to high-value specialty products, smaller growers are attempting to carve out a protected niche that can actually absorb a tax hit. It's a risky gamble — it requires higher up-front processing costs and careful cold-chain handling during harvest — but for operators without deep corporate pockets, it may be the only path toward long-term survival.

So, what happens when a massive influx of seasonal supply meets an aggressive tax framework and a tight regulatory landscape? We are likely looking at the most decisive consolidation event in Michigan cannabis history.

Independent cultivators without in-house processing or retail storefronts are in the clear danger zone. Selling raw biomass on the open wholesale market



at current price points — after factoring in the tax burden — is, for many, a losing proposition. We will almost certainly see fewer outdoor cultivation licenses renewed when spring comes around.

On the flip side, multi-state operators and large, vertically integrated Michigan brands are better positioned to absorb the shock. By transferring their own outdoor harvest directly into their own extraction labs and onto their own retail shelves, they can utilize internal transfer valuations to lessen the blow and capture the margin at the final register.

For the average consumer stopping by their favorite local provisioning center this weekend, Croptober will still feel like a celebration. The shelves will be stocked, autumn-themed edibles and spiced cider drinks will be plentiful, and prices will remain aggressively low.

But behind the counter, the operators are doing complex financial triage. Michigan's cannabis industry built its reputation on producing massive volume at unmatched price points. As the harvest comes off the stalks and hits the scales, this fall will test whether sheer volume is enough to keep local farms afloat — or if cheap, abundant, sun-grown Michigan weed is about to cost a whole lot more to produce.

Chris Silva never smokes outdoor flower. Have a tip or question? Reach him at silvachr@gmail.com.



THE ONE GOOD THING

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BY JOE BRAVACO

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Jonesin' Crossword

By Matt Jones

“It’s Always
Something New”
-- sounds like an
original idea.
by Matt Jones
© 2026 Matt Jones

- ACROSS
1. Surrender, so to speak
5. Diner breakfast option
9. “Frozen II” snowman
13. 2023-2024 tour that set multiple Guinness World Records
14. Those not in favor
16. Jail unit
17. Quick burst of house cleaning?
19. Three in a gig?
20. Actor Vigoda
21. Chefs signing a contract before the wedding?
23. Scalawag
25. “Harper Valley _____” (#1 hit of 1968)
26. “Correct!”
27. Studio behind October 2026’s “Wildwood”
30. “_____Amatoria” (Ovid work)
32. State home to Celeryville and Mount Healthy
35. Bottle feature
37. Post-workout soreness
41. Huge statue that can’t lie?
44. Like the former financial backers of LIV Golf
45. Mapo _____
46. Website with a “Collectibles” section
47. Pepper’s rank
49. Nabisco’s _____
51. Relaxing getaway
54. Owns
56. Bind securely
60. Fertilizer for only growing plants in the

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8		9	10	11	12
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60				61				62	63			64	
65						66					67		
68						69					70		
71							72				73		

- dark?
64. “Wayward” creator/star Martin
65. “Garfield” canine
66. Green fuzzy stuff on some legumes?
68. Maze divider
69. Per _____ (yearly)
70. Roster-shortening abbr.
71. Took a gander at
72. _____ Club (retail chain)
73. “Breakadawn” hip-hop group _____
Soul
- DOWN
1. Moth-repelling closet wood
2. Antilles resort island
3. Places to gather your buds?
4. Superlative suffix
5. Recession victim?
6. One of the Brontës
7. Astonish
8. Ask for money
9. Prefix meaning
- eight
10. Sports artist Neiman
11. Similar
12. Freebie from a dentist visit
15. 58-Down partitions
18. Former name of the film ratings org.
22. Jeweler’s weight unit
24. Overcast sky feature
28. Where Canterbury is
29. Be motivated by
31. 1996 horror film with sequels
32. Chant sounds
33. Condo gp.
34. Shiba _____ (Japanese dog breed)
36. Former U.N. secretary-general Annan
38. Airline’s home city
39. Rideshare app
- stat
40. Reserved
42. Could possibly
43. Seesaw pivots
48. Lightning’s home
50. Spelling style used by hackers
51. Longtime Maine senator Olympia
52. Math-themed March 14th observance
53. Nimble-footed
55. “Carnival of the Animals” composer Camille Saint-_____
57. Act dramatically
58. Like some vowels in French
59. Unit of magnetic flux
61. Retained
62. “Peter Pan” dog
63. Word on a coin
67. Club _____ (resort chain)

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SUDOKU

Beginner

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

Fun By The Numbers

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

Here's How It Works:
Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

Free Will Astrology

By Rob Breznsy

Sept. 30-Oct. 6, 2026

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Orchids may lure pollinating insects with ingenious illusions rather than nectar. Some mimic the look or fragrance of other flowers. Others resemble female insects so convincingly that hopeful males unknowingly assist with pollination. From this, we might conclude that nature can be as duplicitous as humans. But rather than being bummed out by the facts of life, let's use this as a lesson for you to wield in the coming days. Appearances can be deceiving — for both better and worse. If a situation initially seems disappointing or confusing, linger before drawing conclusions. Likewise, if something looks irresistibly attractive at first glance, investigate further. I predict your intuition will be extra skilled at distinguishing authentic richness from glamorous distraction.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): I propose we make 93-year-old Taurus musician Willie Nelson your patron saint and role model for the foreseeable future. Earthy, unflappable, and unhurried, he has kept making his distinctive, soulful music for over 70 years, devoted all the while to the land and the people who work it. He has never pushed to sound like anyone else; he has patiently, inexorably become more fully himself. It's your birthright to live like Nelson, Taurus, with a steady, sensual, enduring devotion to what you love. In the coming weeks, I invite you to tend to your deepest roots.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): I may be preaching to the choir here, but there's a fun kind of magic that thrives when you decline to be consistent. You Geminis are least likely of all the signs to exhaust yourself in trying to maintain a unified self-presentation. Like the Gemini poet Walt Whitman, you're often pleased with the fact that you contain multitudes. It's a potential superpower! The you who loves solitude and the you who craves connection can both be true. The skeptic and the mystic can coexist in the same nervous system. Your assignment: Honor three contradictory impulses without trying to make them coherent. You're boisterously excused from having to make too much sense.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): In certain caves, like the Cave of the Crystals in Naica, Mexico, crystals grow to astonishing sizes. Why? Because the environment remains stable for thousands of years, with steady temperatures, minimal disturbances, and slow mineral flow. Under these stable conditions, ordinary molecules assemble into lavish structures. I believe you're cultivating a similar sanctuary, Cancerian, as you invoke the powers of steadiness and devoted dedication. Even if progress appears slow, the underlying process is gradually generating a beautiful strength and/or lasting treasure. Now's a good time to redouble your faith in your good work.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): The cosmic powers have granted you a license to be magnificent. Not arrogant, please note, but majestic, resplendent, and marvelous. You know the difference, right? Arrogance is parasitic, demanding that everyone reflects your glory back at you. Magnificence is expansive, making everyone feel more vital and attuned to their own splendor. The second option is far more nutritious and delicious for you in the long run. In the coming eons, and especially now, I hope you'll be lavish with your praise and generous with your attention. Glow and dazzle in ways that inspire others to glow and dazzle.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): A Zen teaching says, "Before enlightenment, chop wood, carry water. After enlightenment, chop wood, carry water." But being the post-Zen teacher I am, I protest and say, "No, the chopping and the carrying ARE the enlightenment. There is no separate 'after.'" The sacred is ALWAYS lurking in the mundane, disguised as ordinary tasks. And you Virgos are potentially the zodiac's supreme master of this controversial truth. Others may chase after astral bling and transcendent glitter, but you know that divinity lives in the earthy details that are right in front of you. That's how you transmute seemingly

unremarkable stuff into the sublime. It's time to wield your superpower to the hilt, please!

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Let's make Libran writer Ursula K. Le Guin your patron saint. She believed that any human arrangement, however permanent it seems, was made by people and can therefore be unmade and remade by people. The divine right of kings once seemed eternal and inevitable, she liked to remind us. Be like her in the coming weeks, Libra. Refuse to accept that the way things are is the way they must continue to be. Imagine more beautiful, more just, and more loving arrangements in every area of your life, including your relationships, your work, and your inner life. Then take three steps toward making it so.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Volcanologists distinguish between two different eruptions. In the effusive type, lava flows slowly and steadily, while the explosive eruptions eject material fast and hard. What does this have to do with you? In my astrological estimation, you currently contain building pressures that need release. Here's the good news: You can maneuver yourself in the direction of effusive expression and thereby make the explosive kind unnecessary. So, my advice is to find small, controllable outlets for what's gathering inside you. Don't wait until the only option is a massive, sudden discharge.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You'll flourish in the coming years if you ask daring questions and befriend sweet ambivalence and welcome adorable uncertainty. You'll stumble upon weird but interesting success and project potent authenticity if you let your curiosity lead you to situations outside of your cozy bubbles and velvet ruts. On the other hand, you'll flounder if you cling to folk wisdom foisted on you by the algorithms, treat all your opinions as facts, or pretend you always know what the f*ck is going on in this dazzling mess of a world. Keep it generous and exploratory, Sagittarius. Seek out wide-ranging conversationalists and playful skeptics.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): A river delta is where a river finally meets the sea. Instead of arriving as one bold channel, it fans out into dozens of branching streams, depositing the rich silt it has carried for many miles. Deltas are fertile places because of everything the river gathers along the way and finally lays down. You're approaching a metaphorical delta, Capricorn. All the experiences, emotions, and impressions you've been carrying are ready to be released and turned into fertile ground. Abundance wants to grow from all you've gathered.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): In the 17th century, Aquarian astronomer Johannes Hevelius mapped the moon with surprising accuracy. Yet he worked with funky homemade telescopes perched on a homemade observatory that he built on the rooftops of his three connected houses. I recommend you borrow his approach, Aquarius. You might feel tempted to postpone action until conditions are ideal, but I hope you'll begin with what you already possess. Prediction: As you proceed, your tools and strategies will evolve. Momentum will become one of your key resources.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): In traditional Chinese medicine, "wei qi" is a protective energy that circulates beneath the skin, forming a shield against harmful influences. To nourish it, you revel in sleeping and eating well. You work diligently, with tender discernment, to maintain healthy boundaries. How are you doing with that, Pisces? Is it possible you've been working so hard on your deep transformations that you've semi-neglected this outer layer of strength? I hope that in the coming weeks, you'll nurture the subtle shields that prevent you from absorbing every stray particle of psychic weirdness in your environment. Think of this task not as building walls, but as tending to your garden's edges.

OUT on the TOWN

Events & Happenings in Lansing This Week

Events must be entered through the calendar at lansingcitypulse.com. Deadline is 4 p.m. Wednesday for the upcoming Wednesday edition. Charges may apply for paid events to appear in print. If you need assistance, please call Nicole at (517) 999-5066.

Wednesday, Sept. 30

A Course of Love - A Course in Love ongoing book study. All levels of knowledge or curiosity of the book are welcome at any time. 7-8 p.m. Virtual. Meeting ID: 177 417 886. Passcode: 601744. unitylansing.org.

Acting/Improv for Kids - Students will have a blast while gaining confidence, poise and good public speaking skills in this acting course. 5:15-6 p.m. Ruhala Holistic Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. ruhalacenter.com.

Bingo - Every Wednesday. Doors open at 4:30 p.m. Bingo cafe 5 p.m. Early bird 6 p.m. Eaton Rapids Senior Center, 201 Grand St., Eaton Rapids. facebook.com/EatonRapidsSeniorCenter.

Bookend Gallery Display by Cindy Mielock - Noon-4 p.m. Haslett Library, 1590 Franklin St., Haslett. cadl.org/about/our-locations/haslett.

Bruce Molsky - Described as “an absolute master” (No Depression), Molsky transports audiences to another time and place with his authentic and personal interpretations of rarities from the Southern Appalachian songbook and other musical traditions from around the globe. 7:30-10 p.m. The Robin Theatre, 1105 S. Washington Ave., Lansing. tenpoundfiddle.org.

Classical Theatre Class for Teens and Adults - A deep dive into the history, performance technique, and audition technique of performing the works of Shakespeare, his influencers, and his contemporaries. 8:15-9:30 p.m. Ruhala Holistic Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. ruhalacenter.com.

Creative Dance for Kids - A wonderful opportunity for kids to dance without the pressures of technique and performance competition. 6-7 p.m. Ruhala Holistic Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. ruhalacenter.com.

DJ Trivia at Summerlands Brewing Co. - Free to play. Prizes for the top three teams. Bring your friends and test your knowledge! 7 p.m. 1957 Cedar St., Holt. facebook.com/summerlandsbrewing.

EnhanceFitness - Join us for free, fun, core-strengthening exercise. We meet at All Saints Lutheran Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. 9-10 a.m. 720 W. South St., Mason. allsaintsmason.org.

Fitness Over 50! Exercise Group - The Meridian Township Parks and Recreation Stretch and Flex Exercise group exercises at Central Park pavilion every Monday, Wednesday and Friday. 9-10 a.m. 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos. meridian50plus.com.

Glee Singing Classes for Kids - A 45-minute class that introduces young performers to singing. 4:30-5:15 p.m. Ruhala Holistic Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. ruhalacenter.com.

Lansing Shuffle Big Show - From 7-9 p.m., dive into over a dozen board games, Nintendo Switch, and tabletop shuffle. Then, from 9-11 p.m., take the stage for standard karaoke, hosted by BigMan Genesis. 325 Riverfront Drive, Lansing. lansingshuffle.com.

Lansing Women Artists Collective - 10 a.m.-9 p.m. East Lansing Public Library Brick Wall Gallery, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. friendsofelpl.org.

Let's talk about voting! - Drop by the museum for weekly office hours with MSUvote and take some time to make your voting plan over coffee and donuts. 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Broad Art Museum, 547 E. Circle Drive, East Lansing. broadmuseum.msu.edu.

Meditation - A free meditation gathering rooted in the tradition of Thich Nhat Hanh, offering a calm

space for mindfulness practice and reflection. 7-9 p.m. Chua Van Hanh, 3015 S. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., Lansing. lamcsangha.wordpress.com.

Meridian Township Farmers Market - 3-7 p.m. Marketplace on the Green, 1995 Central Park Drive, Okemos. meridian.mi.us/recreation-leisure/farmers-market.

Michigan in the American Revolution - Historian Andrew Kercher will reveal Michigan's role in the American Revolution. 7-8 p.m. City of DeWitt Community Room, 414 E. Main St., DeWitt. dewittlibrary.org.

Move in the Garden - This free outdoor program combines stretching, strengthening, flow, and relaxation movements to support overall mobility. Sessions meet most Wednesdays through Sept. 30. 12:10-1 p.m. Beal Botanical Garden, 330 W. Circle Drive, East Lansing. facebook.com/bealgarden.msu.

Parkinson's Exercise: Tai Chi - Free group class tailored for people with Parkinson's and their caregivers. Improve balance and strength. 1 p.m. Michigan Athletic Club, 2900 Hannah Blvd., East Lansing. To register, call 517-364-8800. lapseg.org.

Puppetry Class - This class will advance progressively in skill from sock puppet to mascot and everything in between. All ages welcome. 7-8 p.m. Ruhala Holistic Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. ruhalacenter.com.

Quillwork: Demonstration and Talk - Experience the art of quillwork through an exhibition talk and live demonstration with Monica Raphael, an Anishinaabe-Lakota artist, knowledge keeper, and fifth-generation quill worker. 6-7:30 p.m. MSU Museum, 409 W. Circle Drive, East Lansing. museum.msu.edu.

Savvy Caregiver Program - Are you caring for a loved one with memory loss? Attend a six-week workshop to help reduce caregiving stress. 1-3 p.m. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. Register by calling 517-887-1465 or emailing histedc@tcoa.org.

Songwriting Class - Our songwriting class is designed to help young songwriters develop their craft by giving them assignments that will teach them the foundations of good songwriting. 7-8 p.m. Ruhala Holistic Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. ruhalacenter.com.

Sporec Live Trivia - Join us at HopCat East Lansing every Wednesday for trivial! Two rounds, two chances to score prizes. First game: 7 p.m. Second game: 8 p.m. 300 Grove St., East Lansing. facebook.com/HopCatEastLansing.

VITA Mobile Unit at Charlotte Community Library - Appointments are required — walk-ins are NOT accepted. To schedule an appointment, visit vitataxprep.org and select the Mobile Unit Tax Clinics option. 9 a.m.-3 p.m. 226 South Bostwick St., Charlotte. charlottelibrary.org.

Wild, Weird, Wacky Carved Pumpkins & Gourds - Stop by and watch “The Lord of the Gourd” at work, crafting fantastical faces and creatures from pumpkins and maybe a few squash as well. 4-7 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. gladl.libcal.com.

Wine Down Wednesday - We're open a little later, so you've got extra time to unwind. Enjoy \$1 off glasses of wine all day long, plus featured monthly wine specials you won't want to miss. Noon-7 p.m. Burgdorf's Winery, 4212 E. Holt Road, Webberville. burgdorfwinery.com.

517 Restaurant Week

Thursday, Oct.

1-Wednesday, Oct. 7
Participating restaurants across Greater Lansing
517restaurantweek.com

Taking place during 517 Living Community Week, 517 Restaurant Week is an opportunity for foodies in the Lansing region to try offerings from the local dining scene they have yet to explore. Interested parties can stop by select restaurants for a \$7 featured entree and a \$5 featured drink, and certain locations will have \$17 meal deals. Participating eateries include Tin Cup Cafe and Looking Glass Brewing Co. in DeWitt; Snow Stars and Dimes Brewhouse in Dimondale; Peppino's Pizza in Grand Ledge; Tabooli, Harrison Roadhouse, One North and Fuel'd in East Lansing; and Falsetta's Casa Nova, The Cosmos/Zoobie's, Grains Indian Cuisine and The People's Kitchen in Lansing, to name just a few. Check out the full list on the event website.



Thursday, Oct. 1

Acting 101 Class for Teens and Adults - Students will learn the fundamentals of acting: diction, projection, stage presence, stage directions, working off their partner, basic script work and improvisation. 7-8 p.m. Ruhala Holistic Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. ruhalacenter.com.

Acting Ensemble Class for Teens & Adults - Actors will learn more than just craft; they'll learn successful strategies for a career in acting, what it takes, and how to move into the business when it's time. 8-9:30 p.m. Ruhala Holistic Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. ruhalacenter.com.

Baby and Me - A lap-sit story time for babies and toddlers with their adult caregivers. Rhymes, songs, cuddles, and play are all included. Older siblings are welcome to attend. 10-10:45 a.m. Charlotte Community Library, 226 S. Bostwick St., Charlotte. charlottelibrary.org.

Bath Farmers Market - 3-6:30 p.m. James Couzens Memorial Park, 13753 Main St., Bath. bathtownship.us/departments/farmers-market.php.

Bike Night at Summerlands Brewing Co. - Kick back with an ice-cold brew, grab a burger, and check out some awesome bikes while enjoying great company and laid-back vibes. 7-10 p.m. 1957 Cedar St., Holt. facebook.com/summerlandsbrewing.

Book Bedazzling Craft Night - Give your favorite book some bling! Bring a book you already own, pick your colors, get a little crafty, and settle into the process. 6-7:30 p.m. GLADL Wacousta Branch, 9135 W. Herbison Road, Eagle. gladl.libcal.com.

Capital Area Modelers Society Meeting - Learn about building scale models, display what you're working on and get to know others interested in the hobby. 6:30-8 p.m. Judson Baptist Church, 531 Glendale Ave., Lansing. capitalareamodelerssociety.wordpress.com.

Diabetes PATH - Six-week workshop designed to help individuals with diabetes or pre-diabetes improve their health and feel better. 1-3:30 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. To register, call 517-887-1465 or

email histedc@tcoa.org.

Fall into Reading Challenge - Our “Fall into Reading” challenge begins Oct. 1, and we'll have a little something for everyone this season! Visit gladl.org/readingchallenges for full details on the challenge and to get started. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. gladl.libcal.com.

Flamy Grant - Beautifully blending her Appalachian roots with drag artistry and musical excellence, this powerhouse vocalist, intrepid songwriter, and shame-slating drag queen serves up a therapeutic, theatrical experience that is fearless, flamboyant, and full of heart. 7:30-10 p.m. UrbanBeat, 1213 Turner St., Lansing. tenpoundfiddle.org.

The Hunny Bee: An Adult Spelling Bee - Test your spelling acumen at this fun spelling bee featuring words (loosely) based on Winnie-the-Pooh. Registration req. 6-8 p.m. Fowlerville District Library, 130 S. Grand Ave., Fowlerville. fowlervillelibrary.net.

The One Good Thing or “Are Ya Patrick Swayze?” - With warmth, wit, and emotional depth, this thoughtful, poignant dark comedy brings a deeply human story to life just feet from your seat. 2 p.m. Williamston Theatre, 112 S. Putnam St., Williamston. williamstontheatre.org.

Parkinson's Exercise: Rock-Steady Boxing - Free exercise class for people with Parkinson's. Caregivers are welcome to participate if space permits. 1 p.m. Michigan Athletic Club, 2900 Hannah Blvd., East Lansing. To register, call 517-364-8800. lapseg.org.

Pollinator Outreach Program - Learn about Michigan's federally endangered pollinators, the importance of pollination, and how you can help the pollinators! 6-7 p.m. Woldumar Nature Center, 5739 Old Lansing Road, Lansing. explore.woldumar.org.

Ruhala Broadway Ensemble — Performing Group for All Ages - A wonderfully intense twice-a-week training program for students interested in taking their training to the next level. 5:30-7 p.m. Ruhala Holistic Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. ruhalacenter.com.

See Events, Page 36

Events

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Shora Family Support Group - A weekly therapeutic community for families who homeschool or who are struggling to get their needs met within traditional school settings. 1-3 p.m. Shora House, 6639 Centuri-on Drive, Ste. 120, Lansing. shorahouse.com.

South Lansing Farmers Market - 3-7 p.m. 5016 S. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., Lansing. facebook.com/SouthLansingFarmersMarket.

Spirit of Michigan Chorus Rehearsal - We're an inclu-sive community of women who sing a cappella in the barbershop style. We welcome all levels of musical experience. 6:45 p.m. Church of the Nazarene, 4851 Holt Road, Holt. spiritofmichigananchorus.com.

Ten Pound Fiddle Presents: Tune In - An inclusive mu-sic showcase for performers and songwriters from Greater Lansing. The evening will consist of around 12 artists, one directly after another. 7:30 p.m. The Robin Theatre, 1105 S. Washington Ave., Lansing. tenpoundfiddle.org.

“The Traitors” Thursday Watch Nights at MP Social - 8-10 p.m. 313 N. Cedar St., Lansing. facebook.com/mpsocial.lansing.

Wealth & Wisdom Summit - A transformative faith-based conference bringing together leaders in finance, entrepreneurship, ministry, and leadership development for three days of powerful sessions, workshops, networking, and worship. 7 p.m. Dou-bleTree Hotel, 111 N. Grand Ave., Lansing. wealthand-wisdom.us.

Weekly TOPS Meeting - Join us if you want to Take Off Pounds Sensibly. Your first meeting is free. 6 p.m. Haslett Middle School, 1535 Franklin St., Haslett. Call (517) 927-4307 for more info.

Wine Bingo Night - Come play a bit, win some swag, and hang with us. It's free to play. 6-7:30 p.m.

As Seen On the Cover of CityPulse

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CROSSWORD SOLUTION

From Pg. 34

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Horrocks Wine Bar, 7420 W. Saginaw Hwy., Lansing. facebook.com/HorrocksWineBar.

Friday, Oct. 2

Audio Air Force Presents: “The Maltese Falcon” - 7 p.m. Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Drive, Lan-sing. riverwalktheatre.com/audio-air-force.

Canines for Change Puppy Yoga - Get ready to downward dog with adorable future service and fa-cility dogs while supporting Canines for Change! 6-7 p.m. 5573 N. Michigan Road, Dimondale. eventbrite.com/o/113524238651.

Double Clutch Free Karaoke - First, second & third Fridays from 7-10:30 p.m. Bring your friends, significant other or coworkers and sing your little hearts out! High Caliber, 1982 W. Grand River Ave., Okemos. highcaliberkarting.com.

EnhanceFitness - Join us for free, fun, core-strengthening exercise. We meet at All Saints Lutheran Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. 9-10 a.m. 720 W. South St., Mason. allsaintsmason.org.

Fitness Over 50! Exercise Group - The Meridian Township Parks and Recreation Stretch and Flex Exercise group exercises at Central Park pavilion every Monday, Wednesday and Friday. 9-10 a.m. 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos. meridian50plus.com.

Friday Guided Tours - Each Friday at 1 p.m., a guided tour of the museum is conducted by one of our volunteer docents or staff members. Tours run an average of 45 minutes. Participation is covered by general admission to the museum. R.E. Olds Trans-portionation Museum, 240 Museum Drive, Lansing. reoldsmuseum.org.

Joel Mabus - A very talented singer, songwriter, instrumentalist, and political and music historian, Mabus is often mentioned as one of the finest folk music artists in the country. 7:30-10 p.m. University Lutheran Church, 1020 S. Harrison Road, East Lansing. tenpoundfiddle.org.

Mid Michigan Art Guild Exhibit - The Michigan Institute for Contemporary Art proudly hosts a fine art exhibit by members of the Mid Michigan Art Guild from Oct. 2 through Nov. 29. Noon-5 p.m. 1210 Turner St., Lansing. micharts.org.

MSU Men's Ice Hockey vs. Boston College (Exhi-bition) - 5 p.m. Munn Ice Arena, 509 Birch Road, East Lansing. msuspartans.com/sports/mens-ice-hockey.

Oktoberfest Showcase Dinner - An Oktoberfest celebration including a five-course tasting menu showcasing the entrepreneurs in ANC's Incubator Kitchens program, paired with beers by EagleMonk Pub & Brewery. 5:30-9 p.m. Allen Marketplace, 1629 E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing. allenneighborhood-center.org.

The One Good Thing or “Are Ya Patrick Swayze?” - 7:30 p.m. Williamston Theatre, 112 S. Putnam St., Williamston. williamstontheatre.org.

Open Old-Time Jam | First Friday of Every Month - Join the legendary Mike Ross for an old-time-centric jam. Even if you don't play, feel free to listen

along! 5-6:30 p.m. Elderly Instruments, 1100 N. Washington Ave., Lansing. elderly.com/collections/events.

Own Your Story - Join Women in Action for a life-changing weekend where women from all walks of life come together to celebrate resilience, healing, faith, and purpose. 5 p.m. Crowne Plaza Hotel, 925 S. Creyts Road, Lansing. eventbrite.com/o/17185389496.

Parkinson's Exercise: Movement with Vitality - Free exercise class for people with Parkinson's. Care-givers are welcome to participate if space permits. 1 p.m. Michigan Athletic Club, 2900 Hannah Blvd., East Lansing. To register, call 517-364-8800. lapsg.org.

Wealth & Wisdom Summit - 8 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Double-Tree Hotel, 111 N. Grand Ave., Lansing. wealthand-wisdom.us.

Women of Witness Conference Weekend: Relentless Woman 2.0 - Get ready to be empowered and inspired at the Women of Witness conference! 6:30 p.m. Kingdom Ministries, 3000 W. Miller Road, Lansing. eventbrite.com/o/31632245513.

Saturday, Oct. 3

AfroBeats Party - Bringing nonstop global grooves to the dance floor, this party blends the sounds of Afrobeat, amapiano, dancehall, Afro Congo, reggae and bongo beats into one unforgettable night of mu-sic. 10:30 p.m. UrbanBeat, 1213 Turner St., Lansing. urbanbeatevents.com.

Bare Bones Improv Presents: “Primetime Improv” - 7 and 9:30 p.m. Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Drive, Lansing. riverwalktheatre.com/barebones.

Canines for Change Puppy Yoga - 2-3 and 6-7 p.m. 5573 N. Michigan Road, Dimondale. eventbrite.com/o/113524238651.

Charlotte River Conservation Day - Join us for a fun morning of caring for our city's rivers and trails! 8:30 a.m.-noon. Bennett Park, 1305 Cochran Ave., Charlotte. eventbrite.com/o/60529651223.

Cocaine Anonymous Meeting - “We are here and we are free.” 10 a.m. St. Michael's Episcopal Church, 6500 Amwood Drive, Lansing.

Contra and Square Dance - All dances taught — no partner needed. Come at 6:30 p.m. for a quick workshop on easy contra dance moves. Dance runs from 7-10 p.m. Caller: Lo Ziv. Band: Robins Nest. Central United Methodist Church, 215 N. Capitol Ave., Lansing. tenpoundfiddle.org.

Downtown Lansing Zombie Walk - Join the unstop-pable undead takeover of the capital city once more for the 16th annual Downtown Lansing Zombie Walk! 3-5:30 p.m. Impression 5 Science Center, 200 Museum Drive, Lansing. facebook.com/ZombieWal-kMichigan.

Fall Festival Fun at GLADL - Try a scavenger hunt, play our Sidewalk Action game, search for a “Great Pumpkin,” make a leaf rubbing, create an autumn craft or two and enjoy other seasonal activities — including a hammered dulcimer performance! 11 a.m.-2 p.m. 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. gladl.libcal.com.

Fall Native Plant Sale - Sale includes Michigan-na-tive sedges, grasses, wildflowers and ferns. All proceeds benefit HNC. 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Road, Okemos. meridian.mi.us/hnc.

Family Day: MEMORY - Join us as we make object prints inspired by the art and stories in “Laas / Absan / Peldia: Caribbean Cinema Cultures.” 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Broad Art Museum, 547 E. Circle Drive, East Lansing. broadmuseum.msu.edu.

The Feminine Frequency Summit - An afternoon of connection, wellness and empowerment — held in a space where strong women feel safe enough to face what's really going on and leave with real next steps. 1-3 p.m. Creekside Gathering Place, 9452 Peacock Road, Laingsburg. facebook.com/true-healthsolutionsclinic.

The Ghosts of REOlds - Step into the unknown on an exclusive ghost tour of this unique Lansing

landmark to experience a haunted journey into the past. 6-8 p.m. and 8:30-10:30 p.m. R.E. Olds Trans-portionation Museum, 240 Museum Drive, Lansing. reoldsmuseum.org.

Grand River Color Tour Triathlon - This race will feature a 2K kayaking paddle, a 15-mile cycle, and a 5K run. During the final leg of the 5K, runners will be blasted with powder coloring, leaving each racer to finish the competition in a uniquely colored way. 8 a.m. 114 Mill St., Eaton Rapids. runsignup.com/Race/MI/EatonRapids/The5thAnnualGrandRiver-ColorTourTriathlon.

Gun Buyback - \$100 cash given in exchange for each working, unloaded handgun, assault rifle, long gun. 11 a.m. until cash runs out. St. Michael's Episcopal Church, 6500 Amwood Drive, Lansing. facebook.com/St.MichaelsEpiscopalChurch.

Healing Stones Bracelet Make and Take with Sandy Sonier - Create your unique healing stone bracelet to enhance physical, emotional, or spiritual well-be-ing. 11 a.m.-noon. Art & Soul Gallery, 215 N. Clinton Ave., St. Johns. facebook.com/ClintonCntyArts.

HeroFest 2026 - Celebrate veterans and first responders with family fun, community resources, vendors, activities, and more! 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Alfre-da Schmidt Community Center, 5825 Wise Road, Lansing. eventbrite.com/o/114780974651.

How-To Halloween - Set your phasers to fun because we're celebrating the 60th anniversary of “Star Trek” at the 12th annual How-To Halloween, a free outdoor festival. 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Impression 5 Science Center, 200 Museum Drive, Lansing. how-tohalloween.com.

Mid Michigan Art Guild Exhibit - Noon-5 p.m. 1210 Turner St., Lansing. micharts.org.

The One Good Thing or “Are Ya Patrick Swayze?” - 2 and 7:30 p.m. Williamston Theatre, 112 S. Putnam St., Williamston. williamstontheatre.org.

Own Your Story - 7 a.m. Crowne Plaza Ho-tel, 925 S. Creyts Road, Lansing. eventbrite.com/o/17185389496.

Salaam Peace Festival - Join us for a celebration of Muslim culture and food from various countries around the world. 2:30-6:30 p.m. Islamic Center of East Lansing, 920 S. Harrison Road, East Lansing. tinyurl.com/salaampeacefestival.

Saturday Guided Tours - Each Saturday at 1 p.m., a guided tour of the museum is conducted by one of our volunteer docents or staff members. Tours run an average of 45 minutes. Participation is covered by general admission to the museum. R.E. Olds Transportation Museum, 240 Museum Drive, Lansing. reoldsmuseum.org.

Victorian Ghost Walk - Join us for a tour of Williamston's most iconic architectural treasures. Peer behind the scenes into the spooky basements and haunted upper stories of this charming “town of many morgues” and enjoy a ghostly evening at our fabulous shops and restaurants. 6-9 p.m. 111 W. Grand River Ave., Williamston. facebook.com/mulfordarts.

Walk for the Animals - Every dollar you raise goes directly toward medical care, food, and shelter for homeless pets right here in our community. 1-4 p.m. Fitzgerald Park, 100 Fitzgerald Park Drive, Grand Ledge. secure.qgiv.com/event/2026wfta.

Wealth & Wisdom Summit - 8 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Double-Tree Hotel, 111 N. Grand Ave., Lansing. wealthand-wisdom.us.

Williamstown Township's 5th Annual Harvest Festival - Join us for pony cart rides, pumpkin dec-orating, crafts, hayrides, music and so much more! (Food will be available for purchase.) 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Williamstown Community Park, 525 E. Grand River Ave., Williamston. williamstownmi.gov.

Women of Witness Conference Weekend: Relent-less Woman 2.0 - 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Kingdom Minis-tries, 3000 W. Miller Road, Lansing. eventbrite.com/o/31632245513.

Events

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Sunday, Oct. 4

Blessing of the Animals & Fluffy Stuffies - We will have a fun, brief service for the blessing of the animals and fluffy stuffies. All ages are welcome and all pets and animals are welcome. 2-3 p.m. St. Katherine’s Episcopal Church, 4650 Meridian Road, Williamston. facebook.com/stkatherinesepiscopalchurch.

Canines for Change Puppy Yoga - 10-11 a.m. and 2-3 p.m. 5573 N. Michigan Road, Dimondale. eventbrite.com/o/113524238651.

College Day - Don’t miss free admission to Potter Park Zoo for students with a current college ID! 9 a.m.-5 p.m. 1301 S. Pennsylvania Ave., Lansing. potterparkzoo.org.

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

Fire Prevention Open House - The event will include fire truck tours, fire prevention giveaways, kids’ activities, fire extinguisher hands-on training, donuts, cider, and more. The Meridian Township Police Department will also attend! 1-4 p.m. Marketplace on the Green, 1995 Central Park Drive, Okemos. events.meridian.mi.us.

Healing Histories: A Conjure Garden Workshop - Join Angelica Bajos, community and sustainability coordinator at Beal Botanical Garden, for a hands-on garden workshop. 1-2:30 p.m. Beal Botanical Garden, 330 W. Circle Drive, East Lansing. broadmuseum.msu.edu.

Heritage Festival at the Meridian Historical Village - See history in action during the Friends of Historic Meridian’s annual Heritage Festival! 10:30 a.m.-4 p.m. 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos. events.meridian.mi.us.

Jugglers and Would-Be Jugglers - Jugglers meet at the Orchard Street Pump House at 2 p.m. Sundays. 368 Orchard St., East Lansing. mikemarhanka@gmail.com.

Mid Michigan Art Guild Exhibit - Noon-5 p.m. 1210 Turner St., Lansing. micharts.org.

The One Good Thing or “Are Ya Patrick Swayze?” - 2 p.m. Williamston Theatre, 112 S. Putnam St., Williamston. williamstontheatre.org.

Path Keepers Warrior Arts - In this class, we train from the foundations with stance and breath, footwork, strikes, blocks, and simple combinations, all the building blocks of self-protection and self-mastery. The deeper work is the same: clarity, restraint, boundaries, and presence. 1-2:30 p.m. Keys to Manifestation, 809 Center St., Lansing. manifestlansing.com.

Quaker Meeting for Worship - Rich communal silence that invites thinking deeply, developing spiritually, loving fully, speaking our truths. Children’s program provided. 10:30 a.m. Red Cedar Friends Meeting House, 1400 Turner St., Lansing. redcedarfriends.org.

Sunday Brunch at Summerlands Brewing Co. - Whether you’re in the mood for something sweet, savory, hearty, spicy, or somewhere in between, we’ve got a brunch option with your name on it. 11 a.m.-3 p.m. 1957 Cedar St., Holt. facebook.com/summerlandsbrewing.

Weekly Drum Circle at Lake Lansing Park North - Join us every Sunday (weather permitting) for a fun and energetic afternoon of rhythm and drumming with the Greater Lansing Area Drummers! 2-4 p.m. 6260 E. Lake Drive, Haslett. lansingdrummers.wixsite.com.

Williamston Farm & Artisan Market - 10 a.m.-2 p.m. McCormick Park, 123 High St., Williamston. williamstonfarmmarket.org.

Monday, Oct. 5

AA Women’s Meeting - 6-7 p.m. Okemos Community Church, 4734 Okemos Road, Okemos. 517-377-1444. AALansingMI.org.

Acting/Improv for Teens & Adults - Perform your characters and learn how to make them funnier and more dramatic! 6-7 p.m. Ruhala Holistic Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. ruhalacenter.com.

Art Ability Crafts for Adults - This program, held on the first Monday of the month, welcomes adults who may be on the spectrum, seniors, and anyone who is differently abled. 1-2 p.m. Bath Township Public Library, 14051 Webster Road, Bath. bathtownship-publiclibrary.org.

Canines for Change Puppy Yoga - 7-8 p.m. 5573 N. Michigan Road, Dimondale. eventbrite.com/o/113524238651.

Cute Halloween Felt Ornaments - Craft a cute black cat, ghost, pumpkin, or witch’s hat ornament from the materials provided! Ages 8+. 6-7 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. glad.libcal.com.

DJ Bingo at Summerlands Brewing Co. - Kick off your week with a night of music, laughs, and friendly competition! 7-8:30 p.m. 1957 Cedar St., Holt. facebook.com/summerlandsbrewing.

Euchre - 1-3 p.m. Eaton Rapids Senior Center, 201 Grand St., Eaton Rapids. facebook.com/EatonRapidsSeniorCenter.

Fiber Circle at Charlotte Community Library - A social gathering for knitters, crocheters, and stitchers of all ages and skill levels. 5:30-7 p.m. 226 S. Bostwick St., Charlotte. charlottelibrary.org.

Fitness Over 50! Exercise Group - The Meridian Township Parks and Recreation Stretch and Flex Exercise group exercises at Central Park pavilion every Monday, Wednesday and Friday. 9-10 a.m. 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos. meridian50plus.com.

Lansing Town Hall Celebrity Lecture Series w/ Michael Minor - This season’s opening guest, Michael Minor, is a versatile entertainer known for blending music, performance, and character-driven storytelling into engaging live experiences. 11 a.m.-noon. Eagle Eye Banquet Center, 15500 Chandler Road, Bath. lansingsymphony.org.

Music Theory for Singers Class - This is a great opportunity for young and older singers to move their singing performances forward! 7-8 p.m. Ruhala Holistic Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. ruhalacenter.com.

Parkinson’s Exercise: Yoga - Free exercise class for people with Parkinson’s. Caregivers are welcome to participate if space allows. 1 p.m. Michigan Athletic Club, 2900 Hannah Blvd., East Lansing. To register, call 517-364-8800. lapsg.org.

Playtime Pals - Bring your little one to the library for a fun, informal playdate designed to build social skills, creativity, and early literacy through the power of play. 11 a.m.-noon. Charlotte Community Library, 226 S. Bostwick St., Charlotte. charlottelibrary.org.

Protecting Your Identity - Learn how to protect yourself from identity theft and what to do if your identity is stolen in this seminar led by MSU Extension. 6-7 p.m. DeWitt District Library, 13105 Schavey Road, DeWitt. dewittlibrary.org.

Ruhala Broadway Ensemble — Performing Group for All Ages - A wonderfully intense twice-a-week training program for students interested in taking their training to the next level. 5:30-7 p.m. Ruhala Holistic Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. ruhalacenter.com.

Shape Note Singing - First and third Mondays, free, loan books available, beginners and the curious are welcome. 7-9 p.m. Edgewood United Church, 469 N. Hagadorn Road, East Lansing. fasolamichigan.org.

Singing for Joy Class - A class designed for people who want to sing just for fun. Whether you’re a beginner or an accomplished singer, this class will bring you joy. 8-9:30 p.m. Ruhala Holistic Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. ruhalacenter.com.



80th Michigan Antiquarian Book & Paper Show
9:30 a.m.-5 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 4
Causeway Bay Hotel & Conference Center
6810 S. Cedar St., Lansing
\$5 admission (\$1 off with coupon in this paper), free parking
curiousbooks.com/shows.html

The 80th Michigan Antiquarian Book & Paper Show promises attendees will “find the things you’ve always wanted, but never knew existed.” The event, running for more than 40 years (often twice annually) is staged by Ray Walsh, the founder and longtime owner of Curious Books in East Lansing. Just a peek inside the Causeway Bay Hotel and Conference Center, at the sea of book shelves, tables and other vendor displays, reveals that a patient search is likely to yield literary and cultural treasures for almost every interest. It’s not just books on offer, but “ephemera,” including magazines, sheet music, posters, post cards, trading cards, maps and atlases, special prints and beyond. That’s in addition to first editions, rare books, children’s books, science fiction, military history, mysteries, cook-books, private press and much more.

Tuesday, Oct. 6

A Course in Miracles Study Group - A group study of A Course in Miracles from the Foundation for Inner Peace. All levels of knowledge including beginners are welcome. 7-8 p.m. Virtual — find Zoom link at unitylansing.org.

The ABCs of Medicare - A free educational program designed to help seniors and those approaching eligibility understand their healthcare options. 1-2 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. glad.libcal.com.

Acting 101 Class for Teens and Adults - Students will learn the fundamentals of acting: diction, projection, stage presence, stage directions, working off their partner, basic script work and improvisation. 7-8 p.m. Ruhala Holistic Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. ruhalacenter.com.

Acting Ensemble Class for Teens & Adults - Actors will learn more than just craft; they’ll learn successful strategies for a career in acting, what it takes, and how to move into the business when it’s time. 8-9:30 p.m. Ruhala Holistic Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. ruhalacenter.com.

Acting/Improv for Kids - Students will have a blast while gaining confidence, poise and good public speaking skills in this acting course. 5:15-6 p.m. Ruhala Holistic Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. ruhalacenter.com.

Beauty for Ashes Fundraiser Gala - Our Beauty for Ashes Gala brings together compassionate individuals, businesses, and community leaders for one extraordinary purpose: celebrating the remarkable journeys of women rebuilding their lives after surviving the unimaginable. 6:30-8:30 p.m. Crowne Plaza Hotel, 925 S. Creyts Road, Lansing. eventbrite.com/o/16646428998.

Canines for Change Puppy Yoga - 6-7 p.m. 5573 N. Michigan Road, Dimondale. eventbrite.com/o/113524238651.

BOOK RELEASE PARTY

Tuesday, Oct 6th- 5:00–7:00 pm
EagleMonk Pub and Brewery
4906 W. Mount Hope Hwy. Lansing



In their new book, *Stories from Michigan’s Changing Rural Landscape*, Lansing-area author RJ Erskine and photographer Mark Siragusa tell the stories of small business owners, who work in an age of corporate consolidation. Come chat with the authors over a brew — autographed copies available.



FOOD & DRINK

DINING OUT IN GREATER LANSING

Poppa's Cookbook and ABLE Allies come full circle

By LIEZAKLEMM

Husband-and-wife duo Eric and Wendi King have a passion for feeding the community and providing opportunities for adults with disabilities.

It started with a grandchild's nicknames for them: Wendi is "Lolli," and Eric is "Pop."

"Pop" became "Poppa," and from there, Poppa's Cookbook was born from the stack of recipes Eric would make for his family.

"I never once saw a restaurant," he said. "I didn't see any of it because it was just us."

Poppa's Cookbook started as a small soul-food catering business — one of Wendi's friends was the first customer.

The catering business grew, and Poppa's eventually earned a spot in the Allen Neighborhood Center's Rathbun Accelerator Kitchen.

Around the same time, Wendi co-founded Achieving Beyond Life's Expectations Allies with her daughter. The program supports adults with disabilities as they move on from the typical classroom.

Wendi spent over 30 years as a special needs educator and saw a need to establish a program for adults after they gradu-

ate from school.

"End of school means end of social time, end of opportunity," she said. "Some can work, some are not quite as able."

She said she had a vision of everything coming together. A place where ABLE Allies could meet to build skills and friendships and where Poppa's could serve people who needed a helping hand.

Moving to the accelerator kitchen opened the door to opportunities for both Poppa's and ABLE Allies. Participants

of ABLE Allies trained in the kitchen and staffed the restaurant as servers and greeters. The restaurant also functioned as a meeting place for the group.

When Poppa's has a large-scale catering event, the staff includes the Kings and their Allies.

"If you need a full-service staff, this is our staff," Wendi said. "That's non-negotiable."

For a while, Eric operated the restaurant side of Poppa's Cookbook and the catering business out of ANC's incubator kitchen. He said he fell in love with the ANC community and set up a

"pay it forward" program for customers to donate meals.

"For me, there's nothing better than that feeling of knowing not only that your

Poppa's Cookbook:

poppascookbook.com
(517) 604-3357
poppascookbook@gmail.com

ABLE Allies:

ableallies.org
(517) 980-1903
ableallies@gmail.com

ABLE Allies fundraising dinner and silent auction

5-7 p.m. Oct. 24
Allen Neighborhood Center
1611 E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing
\$40
facebook.com/
AllenNeighborhoodCenter



Courtesy

Husband-and-wife duo Wendi (left) and Eric King, the founders of ABLE Allies and Poppa's Cookbook, respectively.

stomach was filled, but you enjoyed it enough to tell everybody else that this is the dude you want some mac and cheese from," he said.

As Wendi recalls, that time period was when managing everything became overwhelming. The couple, who met later in life, decided to scale back the operation.

"We didn't close the restaurant because we were going out of business," Wendi said. "We closed the restaurant because we couldn't stop the business, and we wanted to spend time together."

A new opportunity presented itself. Eric became the kitchen manager at Union Missionary Baptist Church off Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard.

Then everything clicked.

"That vision came back," Wendi said.

Union Missionary Baptist Church oper-

ates as a warming center for the unhoused in the winter. The church also has classrooms for ABLE Allies to meet. Wendi believes this is where they're supposed to be.

"I didn't know what I was seeing until we planted ourselves here," she said, "and now it just makes sense."

Poppa's is waiting for its license from the county to get up and running again. This time, the business will operate out of the church as part of the Union Kitchen Collective.

Waiting is the hard part, according to Eric.

"I just love to feed people," he said. "I just want people to know there's a place in Lansing where you can get food that's going to bless your soul."

The couple also hopes to serve families that stay in the warming center during the winter. Everything has come full circle, Wendi said.

"They won't be getting granola bars and juice," she said. "We'll have full-fledged meals that families can enjoy."

ABLE Allies is hosting its first fundraising dinner, along with a silent auction, Oct. 24 at the ANC. Tickets are \$40.

In terms of next steps for both ABLE Allies and Poppa's, the Kings want to keep the mission of growing community through food and fellowship going.

"I love to cook," Eric said. "She loves to educate."

"Everybody deserves to eat, and everybody deserves a place to belong," Wendi added.

Noosh stands apart from other Middle Eastern eateries

By COURTNEY BOWERMAN

When you live in Delta Township, the busiest street is the fast-food metropolis known as Saginaw Highway. With so many instantly recognizable franchises, like McDonald's, Taco Bell, Panda Express and KFC, that it's easy to miss a little place like Noosh Afghan Cuisine, located in a strip mall off Waverly Road.

Noosh opened in 2023, replacing Nola Bistro, a Vietnamese-Cajun restaurant I always wanted to check out but never got around to trying.

Noosh also flew under my radar for a long time, but after a friend of mine gave it high praise, I decided to swing by on my lunch hour.

Noosh is the first authentic Afghan restaurant in mid-Michigan, something the owners are obviously proud of. The walls are decorated with Afghani flags, paintings and other works of art. As for the food, anyone who thinks Afghan cuisine is the same as the Middle Eastern fare they're used to is in for a surprise. While there are some similar dishes, like shawarma and kabobs, Noosh has plenty of Af-

ghani specialties that can't be found at any other Middle Eastern restaurant in town. You don't get pita bread, you get naan, a thicker and chewier kind of flatbread. It's good, but the side order consists of three large servings, so it's probably best to share it among a group.

I ordered the chicken shami kabob plate. Shami is a patty made from minced chicken cooked with onions and fresh herbs. The plate normally comes with rice, naan and a side salad. However, due to the parasite outbreak



See Dish, Page 39

Courtney Bowerman for City Pulse

Enjoy this delicacy from the comfort of home

From METRO CREATIVE CONNECTION

Certain foods have inspired a devotion that other dishes simply cannot match. Oysters certainly fit that mold. To oyster lovers, there's simply no better way to start a meal than with a plate of these wildly popular delicacies.

Whether you procure your own oysters or find them at your local fishery, this recipe for oysters with spinach and Gruyere from Lines+Angles is a simple and tasty way to enjoy this popular delicacy in your own home.

Oysters with spinach and Gruyere

- Makes four servings
- 24 oysters (in the shell), scrubbed
 - 1/2 cup butter, melted
 - 6 ounces fresh spinach, cooked and drained
 - 6 tablespoons Worcestershire sauce
 - 4 ounces Gruyere cheese, grated
 - One lemon, cut into wedges, for garnish

1. Shuck the oysters using an oyster knife. Scrub the inside of the deeper shell.
2. Brush the inside of each shell with a generous amount of melted butter. Spread a layer of cooked spinach on each shell. Dip each oyster in Worcestershire sauce and place on top of the spinach. Sprinkle each oyster with the



- remaining melted butter and top with grated Gruyere cheese.
3. Place the oysters in a shallow pan or on a cookie sheet. Broil until the edges of the oysters curl and the cheese is bubbly and golden brown.
4. Serve on a bed of sea salt with lemon wedges.

Dish

from page 38

going on at the time of my visit, the restaurant temporarily cut salads from the menu. This was several weeks ago, so things might have changed since then, although I appreciated both the extra rice and that the owners were prioritizing customers' health.

The shami wasn't as spice-forward as chicken shawarma, but it was still packed with flavor. It would be a good option for those who don't think they can handle the spicier foods Noosh has to offer. When it comes to rice, I'm not fussy. As long as it's not



Chicken shami kabob plate

\$16.99

Noosh Afghan Cuisine
603 N. Waverly Road,
Lansing

11 a.m.-8 p.m. Monday-Thursday

11 a.m.-9 p.m. Friday-Saturday

Noon-8 p.m. Sunday
(517) 327-4771

nooshafghancuisine.com

noticeably raw or overcooked, I have nothing to complain about.

It's hard to believe that Noosh is the first Afghan restaurant in the Lansing area. After experiencing it for myself, I'm glad the owners took a chance on Delta Township, and I hope they're successful enough to both stay in business and encourage other Afghani entrepreneurs to open their own eateries. Our dining scene could always use more diversity, especially in these divisive times.



TOP 5 SUSHI

Based on your votes in WKAR and City Pulse's 2025 Top of the Town contest. Bon appétit!

1. Ai Fusion Sushi and Grill

Roomy eatery combining Japanese, Korean and Western fare
2827 E. Grand River Ave., East Lansing
(517) 853-3700
ai-fusion.com
11:30 a.m.-9 p.m. Monday
4-9 p.m. Tuesday-Sunday

2. Maru Sushi & Grill

Casual restaurant offering Japanese fare, including sushi and grilled items
1500 W. Lake Lansing Road, East Lansing
(517) 337-1500
marusushi.com
11:30 a.m.-9 p.m. daily

3. Sansu Sushi

Contemporary restaurant serving Japanese staples, from sushi to katsu
4750 Hagadorn Road, Ste. 100, East Lansing
(517) 333-1933
sansu-sushi.com
4:30-8:30 p.m. Monday
11:30 a.m.-2 p.m., 4:30-9 p.m. Tuesday-Thursday
11:30 a.m.-2 p.m., 4:30-9:30 p.m. Friday-Saturday
3:30-8:30 p.m. Sunday

4. Sushi Moto

Unassuming eatery offering a wide variety of sushi rolls, plus bento boxes and teriyaki dishes
436 Elmwood Road, Lansing
(517) 580-4321
sushimoto.us
11 a.m.-10 p.m. Monday-Saturday
Noon-9 p.m. Sunday

5. Ukai Hibachi Grill & Sushi Bar — both locations

Warmly decorated Japanese restaurants for teppanyaki-style cooking, plus a sushi bar
See iloveukai.com for locations, hours and phone numbers

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Live & Local

CityPULSE

The Avenue

2021 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing
The Dangling Particibles
Sun., Oct. 4, 7-9 p.m..

Blue Gill Grill

1591 Lake Lansing Road, Haslett
Roadside Attraction
Fri., Oct. 2, 8-11 p.m.

BrickHaven Brewing Co.

200 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge
David Salvador
Fri., Oct. 2, 6:30-9:30 p.m.
Kickback
Sat., Oct. 3, 6:30-9:30 p.m.

Charlotte Performing Arts Center

378 State St., Charlotte
Faithfully: Journey/Eagles tribute
Sat., Oct. 3, 7 p.m.

Classic Pub & Grill

16219 Old U.S. 27, Lansing
Sam & the Mojo Makers
Fri., Oct. 2, 8 p.m.-midnight
Sudden Impact
Sat., Oct. 3, 8 p.m.-midnight

Cleats Bar & Grille

5801 N. Aurelius Road, Lansing
Leah Williams
Wed., Sept. 30, 6-9 p.m.
The Brothers Ralph
Thurs., Oct. 1, 6-9 p.m.

Dublin Square

327 Abbot Road, East Lansing
Lewie Austin
Wed., Sept. 30, 9 p.m.-midnight
Aaron Manbeck
Thurs., Oct. 1, 9 p.m.-midnight

EagleMonk Pub and Brewery

4906 W. Mount Hope Hwy., Lansing
Tony Moreno
Wed., Sept. 30, 7-9 p.m.
Chuck Krafft and Friends
Sun., Oct. 4, 5-7 p.m.

Eaton Rapids Craft Co.

204 N. Main St., Eaton Rapids
Flipside
Fri., Oct. 2, 6-9 p.m.
Rockso the Pit Clown wedding, with Influence, Hyporium, Brugada, 16 Penny
Sat., Oct. 3, doors 6:30-11 p.m.

Fish Ladder Music Park

216 E. Grand River Ave., Lansing
Last Dance at Fish Ladder: A Tribute Featuring the Music of Tom Petty & Joni Mitchell
Fri., Oct. 2, 7-11 p.m.

Grand Ledge Area District Library

131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge
Wanda Degen
Sat., Oct. 3, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

The Green Door

2005 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing
Wavelength
Wed., Sept. 30, 8 p.m.-1 a.m.
Everything Yes, Candid Antics
Thurs., Oct. 1, doors 7 p.m., show 8 p.m.
Jarren Benton, with sounds by DJ E-Nyce, Lil Dos, J Cutlass, Jimi Kanklez, Knightheart, Kaameo, Dumugly
Fri., Oct. 2, doors 7 p.m., show 8 p.m.
Net Minder, Saber Tooth Gary, Proud House of Shmucks, Plan iii
Sat., Oct. 3, doors 5 p.m., show 6 p.m.

Michigan-Made Music songwriter showcase, with The Tombstone Kid, Daryl Blair, Poser Jay, 40 Stitches Later, Gaddie
Sun., Oct. 4, doors 5 p.m., show 6 p.m.

Post Sex Nachos, Fetch Tiger
Tues., Oct. 6, doors 7 p.m., show 8 p.m.
Sorry Ghost, Kevin Walkman
Wed., Oct. 7, doors 7 p.m., show 8 p.m.

Horrocks Farm Market

7420 W. Saginaw Hwy., Lansing
Shelby & Jake
Thurs., Oct. 1, 5-8 p.m.
Cloudhoppers
Fri., Oct. 2, 5-8 p.m.
Katzenjammer German Band
Sat., Oct. 3, 2-6 p.m.
John Beltran
Sun., Oct. 4, 2-7 p.m.

The Irish Pub

1910 W. Saginaw St., Lansing
Open mic night, with Scott Seth
Thurs., Oct. 1, 6:30-9:30 p.m.
Smokey Bear
Sat., Oct. 3, 8-11 p.m.

Lansing Brewing Co.

325 Riverfront Drive, Lansing
Mark Collins
Thurs., Oct. 1, 5-8 p.m.

Lansing Shuffle

325 Riverfront Drive, Lansing
Joel Jacobs
Sat., Oct. 3, 4-7 p.m.
Eric Ripper
Sun., Oct. 4, 4-7 p.m.

Looking Glass Brewing Co.

115 N. Bridge St., DeWitt
Darin Larner
Fri., Oct. 2, 6-9 p.m.

Mac's Bar

2700 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing
Teutonosaur, Leisure, Flatfoot
Fri., Oct. 2, 8 p.m.
Open mic night
Mon., Oct. 5, 6-8 p.m.
Unity — In Music
Thurs., Oct. 1, 9 p.m.-2 a.m.
Tues., Oct. 6, 10 p.m.-2 a.m.

Marketplace on the Green

1995 Central Park Drive, Okemos
Bachelors Since Breakfast
Wed., Sept. 30, 6:30 p.m.
Atomic Annie
Wed., Oct. 7, 6:30 p.m.

Mash Bar

212 Albert Ave., East Lansing
Deer & Elk
Wed., Sept. 30, 7-10 p.m.
The Louderthans
Fri., Oct. 2, 9:30 p.m.-1 a.m.

Midtown Brewing Co.

402 S. Washington Square, Lansing
Open mic night
Mon., Oct. 5, 6-9 p.m.

Moriarty's Pub

802 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing
Open mic night, with Jen Sygit
Wed., Sept. 30, 8-11 p.m.
Wild Honey Ramblers
Thurs., Oct. 1, 9 p.m.-midnight
Stan Craig Band
Fri., Oct. 2, 8 p.m.-midnight
The Rotations
Sat., Oct. 3, 8 p.m.-midnight
Jazz Tuesdays
Tues., Oct. 6, 7-10 p.m.
Open mic night, with Jen Sygit
Wed., Oct. 7, 8-11 p.m.

MSU College of Music

The Art of Verse and Sound: Debussy's Preludes, Book II
Wed., Sept. 30, 7:30 p.m.
Cook Recital Hall, 333 W. Circle Drive, East Lansing
Votapek and Friends, 6th Edition
Thurs., Oct. 1, 7:30 p.m.
Cook Recital Hall
Voices of Latin America: Juan Riveros, harp
Fri., Oct. 2, 7:30 p.m.
Fairchild Theatre, 542 Auditorium Road, East Lansing
Pass a Good Time: America 250!
Sun., Oct. 4, 3 p.m.
Cook Recital Hall
1776-2026: Celebrating 250 Years of American Music
Mon., Oct. 5, 7:30 p.m.
Fairchild Theatre
Les Délices: Bach's Musical Offering
Tues., Oct. 6, 7:30 p.m.
Fairchild Theatre
Concert Band and Campus Band
Tues., Oct. 6, 7:30 p.m.
Wharton Center, 750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing
An Evening with Chopin
Wed., Oct. 7, 7:30 p.m.
Cook Recital Hall

Sholty's Bar

1821 S. Washington Ave., Lansing
Frog & Koop
Tues., Oct. 6, 6-9 p.m.

Stober's Bar

812 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing
DJ ChicagoMuzik
Sun., Oct. 4, 10 p.m.-1 a.m.
Spoonful
Tues., Oct. 6, 10 p.m.-1 a.m.

Nico's Pub and Grill

117 S. Bridge St., Dimondale
Bill Oeming
Wed., Sept. 30, 6-8 p.m.
4x4 Band
Fri., Oct. 2, 7:30-11:30 p.m.

One North East Lansing

1310 Abbot Road, East Lansing
School's Out
Sat., Oct. 3, 6 p.m.

One North Lansing

5001 W. Saginaw Hwy., Lansing
Mike Skory
Thurs., Oct. 1, 6 p.m.
Kathy Ford
Sat., Oct. 3, 7 p.m.
Open mic night, with Kathy Ford
Mon., Oct. 5, 6:30-9 p.m.

The Peanut Barrel

521 E. Grand River Ave., East Lansing
Cal Delo
Fri., Oct. 2, 8-10 p.m.
La Media Hora
Tues., Oct. 6, 6-8 p.m.

Red Cedar Spirits

2000 Merritt Road, East Lansing
Kathleen & the Bridge Street Band
Fri., Oct. 2, 7:30-10:30 p.m.
Randy Napoleon Trio
Sun., Oct. 4, 6-9 p.m.

The Robin Theatre

1105 S. Washington Ave., Lansing
Bruce Molsky
Wed., Sept. 30, 7:30 p.m.
Tune In (inclusive music showcase)
Thurs., Oct. 1, 7:30 p.m.
Seth Bernard and Jordan Hamilton
Wed., Oct. 7, 7:30 p.m.

Sholty's Bar

1821 S. Washington Ave., Lansing
Frog & Koop
Tues., Oct. 6, 6-9 p.m.

Stober's Bar

812 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing
DJ ChicagoMuzik
Sun., Oct. 4, 10 p.m.-1 a.m.
Spoonful
Tues., Oct. 6, 10 p.m.-1 a.m.

Summerlands Brewing Co.

1957 Cedar St., Holt
3 Track Mind
Fri., Oct. 2, 8-11 p.m.
The Dangling Particibles
Sat., Oct. 3, 8-11 p.m.
Open mic & karaoke
Tues., Oct. 6, 7-10 p.m.

Tony M's Restaurant & Banquet Center

3420 S. Creyts Road, Lansing
Smokey Bear
Wed., Sept. 30, 6-9 p.m.
Live music
Sun., Oct. 4, 3-6 p.m.

Uncle John's Cider Mill

8614 U.S.-127, St. Johns
Ryne Shyne
Thurs., Oct. 1, 4-7 p.m.
Gina & Jordan
Fri., Oct. 2, 3:30-6:30 p.m.

DownRiver Dan

Sat., Oct. 3, 1-4 p.m.
Acoustic Liberty
Sat., Oct. 3, 3-6 p.m.
Helena Lost
Sun., Oct. 4, 1-4 p.m.
Rolling Hills
Sun., Oct. 4, 3-6 p.m.

University Lutheran Church

1020 S. Harrison Road, East Lansing
Joel Mabus
Fri., Oct. 2, 7:30 p.m.

UrbanBeat

1213 Turner St., Lansing
Flamy Grant
Thurs., Oct. 1, 7:30 p.m.

Sarah Elizabeth Wallace: Flight of the Lion

Sun., Oct. 4, 4 p.m.
Midweek Music Lounge
Wed., Oct. 7, 6-9 p.m.

Wharton Center

750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing
Lansing Symphony Orchestra: Symphonie Fantastique
Fri., Oct. 2, 7:30 p.m.
An Evening with Sutton Foster
Sat., Oct. 3, 7:30 p.m.

Williamston Roadhouse

3700 E. Grand River Road, Williamston
Bob Hausler
Wed., Sept. 30, 7-10 p.m.
Armament
Sat., Oct. 3, 7-11 p.m.