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November 18–24, 2026

CityPULSE

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Lansing's Mod Pods will be in storage for another winter

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A Mandate Isn't a Trophy

The midterms are over.

Alaska and Mississippi are blue, and there should be a certain amount of excitement and optimism about what comes next. After all, elections are supposed to be about giving people a voice and providing an opportunity to change the direction of government. Yet, before we can even catch our breath, we're already embroiled in another political fight over who should lead the House and the Senate.

Apparently, winning an election isn't enough. We have to immediately turn our attention to the next episode of *Washington's Favorite Reality Show: Who Gets the Gavel?*

I'm certainly not particularly excited about either Chuck Schumer or Hakeem Jeffries, and I suspect I'm not alone. That doesn't mean I don't recognize the importance of leadership, but I also hope those in Congress understand that our voices at the ballot box weren't simply an invitation to rearrange the furniture in Washington. They were a message that people expect something different.

And that's where the real work begins.

I hope our voices, both at the ballot box and afterward, are enough to persuade those in Congress to listen. But until we get money out of politics, I'm not particularly optimistic that our government will consistently put the interests of ordinary Americans ahead of the special interests that have spent decades buying access and influence. We can change the faces occupying positions of power, but if the system that influences their decisions remains intact, how much really changes?

People are tired of political theater. They're tired of watching politicians spend more time protecting their political careers, their wealthy donors, and their corporate benefactors than addressing the problems people are actually dealing with. They're tired of campaign promises that somehow become secondary to the business of staying in power.

We need healthcare that serves patients instead of prioritizing insurance company profits. We need an economy that doesn't continually reward those who already have more than they could reasonably spend in several lifetimes, while everyone else struggles to keep up.

We need money out of politics, accountability from those entrusted with public office, and legislation that actually makes a difference in people's lives.

And perhaps most importantly, we need to demonstrate that the government can still work for the people it is supposed to represent.

Regardless of who assumes leadership positions in the House and Senate, that should be the objective. Not scoring political points, not finding the next opportunity to embarrass the opposition, and certainly not spending the next two years preparing for another election while ignoring the people who made their current positions possible.

Prove that policies can work. Prove that investing in people is worthwhile. Prove that access to affordable healthcare, economic opportunity, education, and a reasonable quality of life shouldn't depend on how much money someone has or how politically connected they happen to be.

There is an opportunity here to restore at least some faith in a government that has given people plenty of reasons to lose it. But that won't happen because of a new Speaker, a new Senate leader, or another round of carefully choreographed press conferences. It will happen when people can actually feel the difference in their everyday lives.

Winning an election is one thing. Governing is another.

And if the people we elected can't understand the difference, they might want to remember that the ballot box works both ways.

Please email me at lansingallstar@gmail.com.

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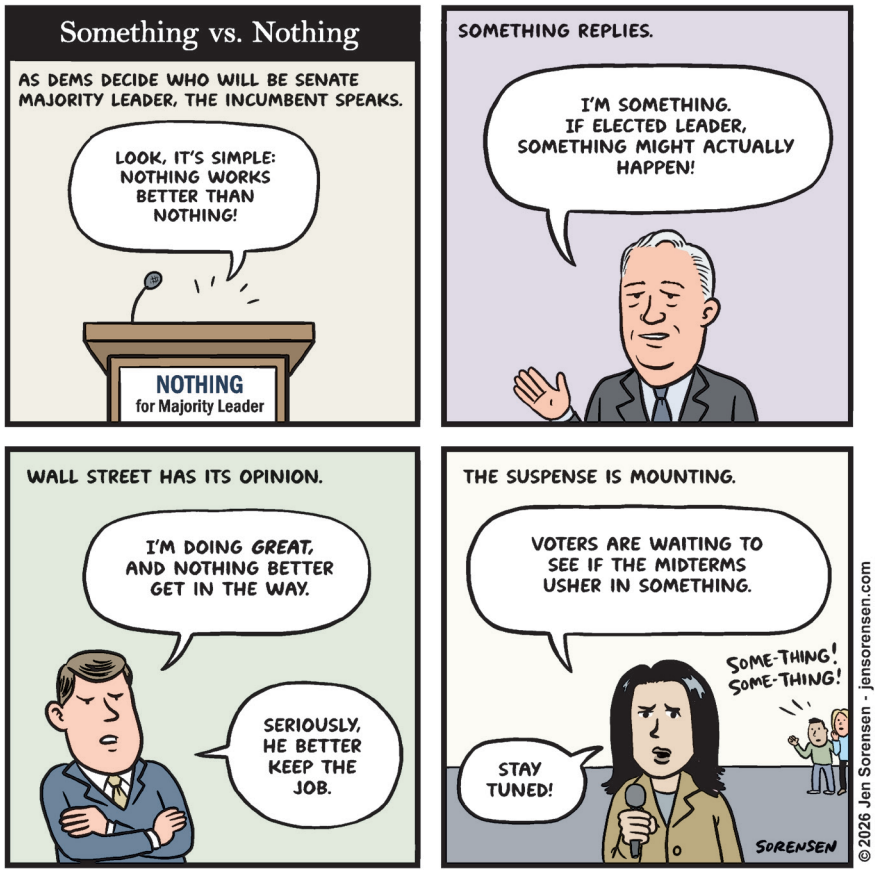
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Turkey farmers hurting in Michigan, expect to pay more



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Lansing's Sneaker Gala supports youth programs



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Mason's Assembly is the ideal gastropub/hangout

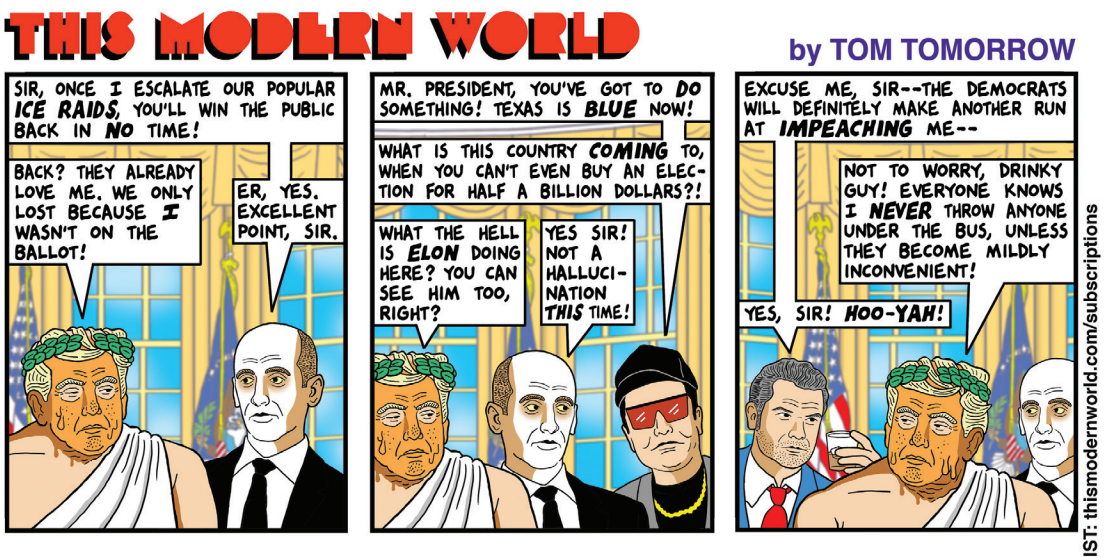
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City Pulse was founded as an alternative weekly in 2001.



PULSE NEWS & OPINION

Lansing City Council delays an emergency ordinance to help homeless

By ERICK DÍAZ VELIZ

"Squirrel," as she is known on the streets, is a 32-year-old unhoused woman who was evicted from Dietrich Park late last year. Amidst the chaos, as she describes it, she stayed there until the very end, helping to sort through people's belongings and return them to their owners, who were staying at the Causeway, the hotel where those who had been evicted were sent.

Last week, the forced eviction of the 15-person homeless encampment on private property along the River Trail behind O'Leary's Paints served as a grim reminder of the December she experienced at Dietrich.

"We have to be restarting constantly," she told City Pulse. "We don't want to do it anymore. I can't. I don't have the energy. It's not fair."

Squirrel had hoped that an emergency ordinance — a 60-day moratorium against homeless evictions from around 10 city parks during the night — might have provided at least some relief to the city's homeless population.

A few hours before the Monday city council meeting, the emergency measure was pushed back to the next meeting on Dec. 7, said council member Deyanira Nevarez Martinez, who introduced the ordinance.

"I do not believe that allowing people to sleep in parks is a solution to homelessness," Nevarez Martinez said. "If I believed this should be permanent, I would be proposing a permanent ordinance, which I am not doing. I am proposing 60 days because we need time. Time to develop an actual strategy. Time to stop punishing people for the failure of their government to provide meaningful alternatives.

"We do not have sufficient options for people," she said. "And then we criminalize them for having nowhere else to go. That is unacceptable. I believe we need to address this crisis on multiple fronts. Sufficient low-barrier emergency shelter. Transitional housing and permanently affordable housing."



Lansing council member Deyanira Nevarez Martinez on a video screen during Monday's (Nov. 16) council meeting.





Dozens of residents spoke Monday about finding permanent ways to assist those who are homeless in Lansing.

Photos by Erick Díaz Veliz

On Monday, a proposal for an ad hoc committee on homelessness strategy, introduced by Council President Peter Spadafore, was also slated for consideration.

It, too, was postponed until the next meeting, with email problems cited. The committee would review existing homelessness programs and spending and develop a coordinated strategy, including specific actions and budget priorities, and would make recommendations for the new fiscal year in July 2027.

"If they've never gone through being homeless," Squirrel said, "if they've never gone through their destruction of our homes ... why are they going to destroy ours? They don't have to consistently start over, start over, start over. So why do we? They're not doing anything to help us. How are we supposed to be able to do anything when we're constantly being the targets? It doesn't make sense."

There was an avalanche of comments from people in the meeting; the common theme was finding a permanent solution to homelessness in the city.

Although some residents disagreed on whether the moratorium was appropriate, citing safety and security concerns, there was a widespread agreement for a humanitarian solution.

Kelsea Hector, executive director of Punks with Lunch, suggested that each member of the city council should visit and speak with people experiencing homelessness to hear their stories, emphasizing that there is nothing that has not already been discussed.

"We've lost more than 10 people in less than a year, and every single death is preventable," Hector said. "We had someone die two weeks ago from a bacterial infection because they can't receive the correct care in an encampment."

"I just don't know what to say anymore," she continued. "We've had meetings. Y'all came to our drop-in. You talked to our folks. You heard their stories. I don't know what it's gonna take for y'all to hear it and really, really hear it. I could sit up here and tell you, imagine your daughters, your sons, yourself being the person that's on the street, being left behind, forgotten, and treated like trash. Stigma is killing our people and you need to check your own bias and your own agenda before making decisions."

Activists, residents and members of the unhoused community said they are seeing a lack of commitment from elected officials as another winter approaches.

"The city has had plenty of time, and we're at another winter with a lot of homeless people and no real leadership from our city government," Kristan Small, a member of Unitarian Universalist Church and Lansing school district educator, told City Pulse. "And our patience is wearing thin. Additionally, we're very concerned about the ordinances."

During public remarks, Small highlighted the stigma that many unhoused individuals experience daily, describing it as a barrier and noting the start of progress with city officials.

"Can we, Lansing, spend more than two-tenths of 1% of our city budget on this problem?" she asked in her public comments. "Can we stop sweeps that separate unhoused people from the services and the supplies that we've barely gotten started, that we've tried to provide through our grants and through our donations in our faith communities?

"Start looking at your budget, our tax dollars," Small said. "Don't just do something. Do a lot of somethings and partner with us with real solutions. We are anxiously awaiting that."

An interview with Abdul El-Sayed: 'We cannot squander this governing opportunity'

By BEN SOLIS/Michigan Advance
MichiganAdvance.com

For Abdul El-Sayed, winning the Nov. 3 election was never the ultimate goal — it was a good first step toward a seat at the table and a real chance to make change. Now that he's U.S. Sen.-elect El-Sayed, he is not slowing down on his main policy goals.

In an interview with Michigan Advance, El-Sayed said he's urging his colleagues in the incoming Democratic majority to strike while the moment is hot to make lasting change for the American people before their window of opportunity closes.

Here's what the senator-elect had to say about climbing "Mount Everest" to achieve his campaign promises and what's next for the Democratic majority as it works to earn its mandate to govern.

This interview has been edited for length and clarity.

Michigan Advance: Given the lay of the land in the U.S. House and U.S. Senate for the next session of Congress, what is your read on the potential for getting some of your chief campaign promises at least on the board next year? Does it look like Medicare for All is more possible than rolling back Citizens United?

Abdul El-Sayed: I think there's a lot of opportunity around a lot of these goals. Let's focus on the affordability side. Ending the war, stopping dumb tariffs is a big goal for us, and that is going to put a lot more money back in people's pockets. That's a huge piece. The second, thinking about union protections, thinking about standing up to big corporate monopolies — all things I'd lived to do, that I'm looking at colleagues to be able to do.

When it comes to Citizens United, I think there's a lot of focus, given how expensive these midterms were, on addressing these challenges. I've already been talking to colleagues, frankly on both sides of the aisle, about how to do that.

When it comes to expanding healthcare, the first thing we've got to do is make sure that they don't cut more through these Medicaid cuts. From there, I think there's a real opportunity to start getting expansions, if not all the way Medicare for All. Now, I'm really looking toward how we build momentum through 2028, so we elect a president who's ready to do this and be ready on day one with the legislation.

MA: You mentioned the potential for additional healthcare expansions first. How open are you to incremental changes as opposed to all-or-nothing changes? For example, if Medicare for All for kids is possible as a first step, would you support that, even though it doesn't get everyone across the board?



Abdul El-Sayed at a voter turnout rally in Detroit on Oct. 24.



El-Sayed with College Democrats on Sept. 11.



El-Sayed campaigned at Grewal Hall in Lansing on Oct. 9.

Photos by Raymond Holt

AES: I've been clear that I want to climb Mount Everest, and to climb Mount Everest, you've got to get to base camp. So, I understand that you've got to take multiple steps. It's a long journey, but I'm not going to lose sight of the fact that we want to climb Mount Everest. It's that kind of commitment that I think is critical.

So yes, I'm going to take as much as I can get done within the space of where folks are willing to work, and then keep coming until we've gotten all the way there.

MA: Looking to 2028, there's going to be a big push for many, and I mean many, Democrats to seek the office of president. We've already seen signs that people are energetic, it seems, for someone like your colleague, U.S. Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, to run. Which among the potential candidates that may be out there do you see as being in line with what you want to achieve in the U.S. Senate? Who would be best suited for this moment?

AES: I've yet to see who's actually running, so it's a bit premature. I want somebody who's ready to get money out of politics, put money in our pockets, and pass Medicare for All.

I'm looking for somebody who understands Michigan and wants to serve our state and wants to be a governing partner to try and address the role that Citizen United has had in corrupting our politics; who wants to stand with unions, wants to take on corporate monopolies and oligopolies, and wants to guarantee everybody healthcare through Medicare for All.

MA: As this new Democratic majority gears up to take over Congress next year, I think back to the early legislative trifecta of the Obama years. Looking back, Democrats wielded their power enough to get the Affordable Care Act, the American Recovery and Investment Act and Dodd-Frank signed into law, but then they lost the House in 2010. How important is it for you all to be as efficient, surgical and swift with your policy goals in this majority so you don't lose the moment?

AES: That's exactly what we need to do. We cannot squander this governing opportunity that the public has given us, and we have to understand that it wasn't as much a vote for us as it was a vote against them.

So we have to earn our mandate by actually demonstrating action, and every single one of those actions has to be about addressing the affordability crisis in people's lives.

MA: I know your primary opponent had framed her campaign as a "love letter to Michigan," but on the campaign trail, you also showed Michigan a lot of love. An example: You had name-dropped a local shawarma shop that has seen a bunch of business since then. What does it mean to you, to know that there is a kind of excitement buzzing at a Michigan business simply because it was a place that you loved?

AES: We have so many amazing small businesses in Michigan, and they deserve a spotlight. I hope that I can continue to shine spotlights on so many of them, because small business is the heart and soul of our economy. Folks have an idea and they turn that idea — through blood, sweat and tears — into a business and into a commitment to their local community.

I hope that our fellow Michiganders will go and engage in the incredible work that they do every single day. There's nothing better than folks coming together around a meal they love, or a design that they're excited about, some flowers to bring to mom. It's one of the best parts of the job.

MA: Throughout the campaign, Republicans and others opposed to your candidacy made a lot of noise about your culture, your religion and your name. But your full real name — Abdulrahman — means "servant of the most Merciful" or "most Gracious" in Arabic. "The servant of God." What does it mean for you, now as a member of Congress, to be in a position to serve a great many people, not just Michiganders, in the U.S. Senate?

AES: I'm deeply grateful, and it's such an honor to earn the trust of nearly 3 million of my fellow Michiganders. My job is to go and earn that, every single day, in the work that I pursue here in the nation's capital on behalf of our state.

I keep saying, "We haven't earned our mandate yet." So let's go earn it.

Michigan turkey growers fight diseases, high costs to put birds on dinner tables

By OLIVIA O'NEILL
Capital News Service

With hot pads and thermometers in hand, oven doors across Michigan will be cracked open on Thanksgiving, letting out a hot breeze and a turkey aroma.

As families begin to plan their Thanksgiving dinners, farmers had to work harder this year to bring the food to the table, especially the turkeys.

With bird flu and increased costs, experts say the farmers' fall season has been noticeably more demanding.

According to the National Turkey Federation, a customer poll last year showed 94% of Americans plan to celebrate Thanksgiving with an estimated 30 million turkeys on their tables.

In Michigan, the farmer-owned cooperative Michigan Turkey Producers based in Grand Rapids raises tom turkeys, according to Nancy Barr, the executive director of Michigan Allied Poultry Industries in East Lansing.

"These are large male birds, primarily for further processing, not whole birds for roasting on Thanksgiving," Barr said. "Although, they do produce some wonderful roasts."

The top five turkey-producing counties in Michigan are Ottawa as the largest producer, then Kent, Allegan, Ingham and Genesee.

Production lies in the hands of farms like Otto's Turkey Farm in Middleville which have been busy with processing, packing, hauling and delivering with the rush of the upcoming Thanksgiving season, according to owner Tom Otto and his staff.

"Honestly, this has been a tough stretch," said Leslee Oden, the president and CEO of the National Turkey Federation in Washington, D.C. "Over the last few years, we have dealt with significant animal health challenges. Michigan knows that well."

For farmers, bird flu — highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) and avian metapneumovirus (aMPV) — has had a big impact on rising input costs and remains a lasting problem.

In the past four years, 66 outbreaks of HPAI have been reported in Michigan: 23 in commercial flocks, three in commercial egg operations and 40 in backyard mixed poultry flocks. Almost all of the commercial cases were in Ottawa, Newaygo, Gratiot and Kent counties.

With the outbreaks affecting large flocks across the state, farmers have had more on their plates with increased prevention efforts to avoid outbreaks, said Oden.

"Biosecurity on turkey farms is as tight as it's ever been," she said. "Growers now have vaccines for aMPV that they didn't have a few years ago. Those vaccines are making a real difference."

The U.S. Department of Agriculture released a poultry, production and value 2025 summary, based on counts from Sept. 1, 2024, through Aug. 31, 2025. It reported 4.3 million turkeys raised and 184 million pounds of production in Michigan.

While those numbers dropped from the previous year, the value of production saw a major increase from $111.48 million in 2024 to $165.27 million in the 2025 season, USDA data shows.

"Last year resulted in the U.S.'s smallest total flock size in 40 years," Oden said. "Since 2022, HPAI alone has cost the industry more than 22 million turkeys total, with Michigan farmers having lost just under 2 million turkeys."

USDA information for the 2026 season forecasts 199 million turkeys raised in the U.S. this year, up 3% from 2025.

"This year has been calmer in the state," Oden said. "So far in 2026, the virus was found in two commercial flocks in Kent County and one backyard flock earlier this spring. But the fall (bird) migration season is underway, so farmers are staying on high alert."

She said food safety and animal welfare regulations through USDA and its Food Safety and Inspection Service inspectors help protect the farmers' work.

With those protections, the number of Michigan turkeys raised this year is estimated to be 4.5 million.

While the biggest challenge for farmers has been outbreaks of bird flu across the country in recent years, the added costs have been a struggle.

The Otto farm raises hens for Thanksgiving. According to its website, it uses feed that is mixed and milled at the farm.

To raise the turkeys naturally — no antibiotics or hormones used — means additional costs for the farmers. Costs are significantly affected by the type of feed and where it is sourced from, said Oden.

"Corn and soybean prices have fluctuated throughout this year," Oden said,"while non-GMO and organic birds cost more to raise because the feed costs more."

According to the Michigan Ag Council, an organization of farmers, commodity groups and agribusinesses, there are 53 farms in the state that raise male turkeys.

However, many independent farms that provide whole birds for Thanksgiving are spread out throughout the state, such as Otto's Turkey Farm, Cook Family Farm in Gaylord, L & J Turkey Farms in Ovid and Ropertis Turkey Farm in Livonia.

Many grocery stores discount whole turkeys to lure customers in for their other holiday shopping.

"There will be plenty of turkeys available this holiday season," Oden said. "Retailers have already purchased the majority of turkeys intended for the holiday season, so the supply available in stores is essentially established."

According to the USDA, advertised retail prices for whole turkeys at major grocery stores for the week of Oct. 26 ranged from $1.77 to $1.97 per pound.

"Our best advice is to shop early, especially if you want a specific size or type," Oden said. "Call ahead of time about special orders or order-by dates. If you have freezer space, grab a frozen bird now."

"There's nothing wrong with beating the rush," she said.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS
EAST LANSING HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION

Notice is hereby given of the following public hearings to be held by the East Lansing Historic District Commission on **Thursday, December 10, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.**, at the City of East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing, Michigan 48823:

1. A public hearing to receive and discuss consideration of a Certificate of Appropriateness from Chris Stearns, located at 523 Dorothy Lane. The applicant request is for after the fact removal of a historic wood window and closure of the opening.
2. A public hearing to receive and discuss consideration of a Certificate of Appropriateness from Alyssa Harben, located at 119 Kensington Road. The applicant request is to replace existing gutters and downspouts in kind and relocate an existing downspout on the front façade to the outside corner by the driveway.
3. A public hearing to receive and discuss consideration of a Certificate of Appropriateness from Matthew Higgins, located at 350 Kensington Road. The applicant request is to replace the existing steel panel and glass door with a new fiberglass panel and glass door.
4. A public hearing to receive and discuss consideration of a Certificate of Appropriateness from Garrett Krause on behalf of Cron Management, located at 110 Oakhill Avenue. The applicant request is to replace three double hung wood windows with double vinyl simulated divided lite (SDL) windows.
5. A public hearing to receive and discuss consideration of a Certificate of Appropriateness from Joshua Walker, located at 934 Michigan Avenue. The applicant request is for after the fact approval of installation of six (6) lineal stones in the front yards.

A staff report (Agenda Item Report) for the public hearing will be published on the City's website the Friday before the meeting. To locate staff reports, please visit the City's public meeting portal at https://cityofeastlansing.civicweb.net/Portal/ and select the meeting date.

For more information on the request please contact Alycia Reiten at (517) 319-6941 or areiten@cityofeastlansing.com. Materials related to the request are available for viewing at:

Department of Planning, Building, and Housing
East Lansing City Hall,
410 Abbot Road, East Lansing, MI, 48823

between the hours of **8:00 am and 12 pm, 1:00 pm and 5:00 pm** or on the City's website located at www.cityofeastlansing.com/currentapplications. Written comments may be sent by 5 pm the day prior to the public hearing to the Historic District Commission, City of East Lansing, 410 Abbot Road, East Lansing, Michigan, 48823, or by email to coelhdc@cityofeastlansing.com.

The City of East Lansing will provide reasonable auxiliary aids and services, such as interpreters for the hearing impaired and audio tapes of printed materials being considered at the meeting, to individuals with disabilities upon request received by the City seven (7) calendar days prior to the meeting. Individuals with disabilities requiring aids or services must contact the Planning, Building, and Development Department, 410 Abbot Road, East Lansing, MI, 48823, (517) 319-6930 (TDD Number: 1-800-649-3777) or via email at ldegarmo@cityofeastlansing.com.

Dated: November 12, 2026
East Lansing, MI 48823

Emily Gordon
City Clerk

CP#26-431

Michigan tests high-tech asphalt that handles heavy use and weather stress

By KIERA KEMPPAINEN
Capital News Service

The Department of Transportation is using a new asphalt that can bounce back to its original shape after stress.

This material had a successful trial on I-96 near Brighton, according to a social media post from Rieth-Riley Construction, the project's paving contractor.

The company said this was the first use of the material in the state.

Highly polymerized asphalt binders allow roads to flex against the stress of heavy vehicles, as well as the impact of Michigan's freeze-thaw cycle, said Bradley Wieferich, director of MDOT.

Wieferich said the asphalt idea comes from the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials, a national organization that brings state transportation departments together for research and legislative goals.

"We are very interested in R and D, and that's not research and development – it's rip-off and duplicate," Wieferich said.

"If somebody else has found a better way to do something, we are not shy about stealing good ideas from others, as well as sharing our ideas with others. We have a really good relationship with our counterparts around the nation."

Wieferich said that while the national association provides all states with the same research and specifications, Michigan's roads are not the same as those in other states with different climates.

However, he said the highly polymerized asphalt binders can help prevent future distress by expanding and contracting through winter weather, which means the state's roads will need fewer repairs over time.

"Using these polymerized versions, we can make sure that when a pavement's stressed, it actually can come back to its shape. Think of a racquetball. You can squish it, but when you let go of it, it comes back," Wieferich said.

Highly polymerized asphalt binders cost more than traditional asphalt, but only need to last 10 months longer than their counterparts to offset the added cost, according to a case study by the Florida Department of Transportation.

The case study suggests that the new material will last long enough to offset the premium.

MDOT is currently the only agency in the state that has placed any highly polymerized asphalt binders on public roads, according to Burt Thompson, the engineering specialist at the County Road Association of Michigan.

Thompson said that Kent County's road commission is talking about where it could use the new material, but has not used it yet.

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF DELTA
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2027 CALENDAR OF MEETINGS

Delta Township Board will meet on the first and third Mondays of the month at 6 p.m. in Public Meeting Room A (unless otherwise indicated) as follows:

January 4 and 19 (Tues.)
February 1 and 15
March 1 and 15
April 5 and 19
May 3 and 17
June 7 and 21
July 6 (Tues.) and 19
August 2 and 16
September 7 (Tues.) and 20
October 4 and 18
November 1 and 15
December 6 and 20

Delta Township Board will meet on the second Monday of each month at 6 p.m. in Public Meeting Room C for Committee of the Whole meeting as follows:

January 11
February 8
March 8
April 12
May 10
June 14
July 12
August 9
September 13
October 11
November 8
December 13

Corridor Improvement Authority will meet on the second Monday of each month at 4 p.m. in Public Meeting Room A as follows:

January 11
February 8
March 8
April 12
May 10
June 14
July 12
August 9
September 13
October 11
November 8
December 13

Planning Commission will meet on the second and fourth Mondays of each month at 6 p.m. in Public Meeting Room A:

January 11 and 25
February 8 and 22
March 8 and 22
April 12 and 26
May 10 and 24
June 14 and 28
July 12 and 26
August 9 and 23
September 13 and 27
October 11 and 25
November 8 and 22
December 13*

*No Planning Commission meeting will be scheduled on the fourth Monday in December (December 27)

Non-Discrimination Complaint Review Committee will meet at 6:00 p.m. in meeting room B:

Fourth Monday in January (January 25, 2027)

Zoning Board of Appeals and Sign Board of Appeals will meet on the second Tuesday of each month at 6:00 p.m. in Public Meeting Room A as follows:

January 12
February 9
March 9
April 13
May 11
June 8
July 13
August 10
September 14
October 12
November 9
December 14

Parks, Recreation & Cemeteries Commission will meet on the first Thursday of each month at 6:00 p.m. in Public Meeting Room C as follows:

February 4
March 4
April 1
May 6
June 3
August 5
September 2
October 7
November 4
December 2

*No January and July meetings

Economic Development Corporation will meet once a quarter on the third Thursday of the month at 4:00 p.m. in Public Meeting Room A as follows:

January 21
April 15
July 15
November 18

Township Board of Review Organizational Meeting will meet Tuesday, (March 2, 2027)
following the first Monday in March in Public Meeting Room B.

Township Board of Review will meet at 9:00 a.m. in meeting room B:

Second Monday in March (March 8, 2027)
Tuesday following the 3rd Monday in July (July 20, 2027)
Tuesday following the 2nd Monday in December (December 14, 2027)

The above meetings are open to the public. All meetings are held in the Delta Administration Building at 7710 West Saginaw Highway, Lansing, Michigan, unless otherwise posted. Special meetings will be posted, as required by law, at the Delta Administration Building.

Barrier-free access to the Delta Administration Building is available at the southwest entrance. Individuals with disabilities attending Township meetings or hearings and requiring auxiliary aids or services should contact Township Manager and ADA Coordinator Brian T. Reed by email at manager@deltami.gov or calling (517) 323-8590 to inform him of the date of the meeting or hearing that will be attended.

Copies of minutes may be purchased or viewed in the Clerk's Office from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, either in person or by phoning 323-8500 or on the Delta Township website at www.deltami.gov.

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF DELTA
MARY R. CLARK, TOWNSHIP CLERK

CP#26-429

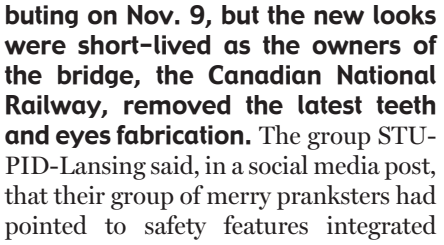
REWIND

NEWS HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE LAST 7 DAYS

COMPILED BY STEVE UNDERWOOD FROM LOCAL NEWS SOURCES



Big Penny recently got a makeover with fancy new duds to show off, debuting on Nov. 9, but the new looks were short-lived as the owners of the bridge, the Canadian National Railway, removed the latest teeth and eyes fabrication. The group STUPID-Lansing said, in a social media post, that their group of merry pranksters had pointed to safety features integrated into the redesigned teeth and eyes, but the embellishments were still removed. The recent replacements were intended to provide a new decoration and warning for the railway trestle. Big Penny has had a lean year due to construction, which cut off the most promising lanes of edible traffic for the truck-munching bridge. The bridge was previously decorated, but vandals removed the earlier work in April. The loss of the long-planned makeover has left the city, and STUPID-Lansing, feeling "defeated and destroyed," but they plan to work on another idea soon.



A pair of horses briefly boarded a Detroit bus through the front door last week and quickly exited out the next door, in a viral video verified by officials. The Capital Area Transportation Authority has dealt with horses before - a miniature horse that is a certified service animal has been on the SpecTran bus - and buses would honor Americans with Disabilities Act guidelines, including allowing guide dogs and other trained animals who work or perform tasks for people with disabilities. "That said," according to a statement from CATA, after being spurred by City Pulse, "if someone tried to board a CATA bus with a full-size horse that is not a service animal, our answer would have to be 'Neigh!'"



The Greater Lansing Democratic Socialists of America are officially urging U.S. Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez to run for president. "We're ready to fight to win a better world and are excited to keep organizing," said Samuel Nelson, GLDSA chapter co-chair. "We saw our friends and neighbors turn out to vote for candidates who support Medicare For All and oppose sending military aid to Israel. We want a presidential nominee who embodies those values – and that's why we're encouraging Rep. Ocasio-Cortez to run." The group took a vote following the November elections, in which one-time DSA member William Lawrence won a seat in Congress.



The country's largest and longest flight grounding since 9/11 happened Friday as technical problems kept aircraft from launching for several hours. The disruptions included several flights scheduled at Lansing's Capital Region International Airport, which were part of more than 12,000 flights ordered to stay put on Friday, according to the Federal Aviation Administration. The grounding was the result of a cascading failure from router work that was being done during the day during one of the busiest periods of the year, according to the FAA, which said that such work was routine but would be re-evaluated. Officials sought to downplay any relation to artificial intelligence, saying that concurrent AI upgrades were not related to the outage. Transportation Secretary Sean Duffy pointed to years of delays and singled out Democrats for a lack of funding. Duffy increased the amount of money the government is seeking for the upgrades to $50 billion.



East Lansing officials said they will be cracking down on couch burning after receiving dozens of fire calls during the night of MSU's football victory over the University of Michigan. EL Fire Chief John Newman said there were around 50 nuisance fires that night, following the first Spartan football rivalry win since 2021. "They are not celebrations," Newman said, during a Friday news conference at the city's fire station on Abbott Road. "Setting fires in our streets, alleys and yards is reckless criminal behavior that puts lives, property and our first responders at serious risk. The real-world consequence of this activity was an immediate dangerous strain on our entire emergency response system."

...

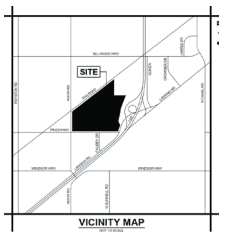
Ingham County Sheriff Scott Wriggelsworth said the calls caused a backlog for the county's 911 dispatchers and he expressed frustration with the couch fires, citing decades with the ELPD. "I've responded to hundreds, hundreds of these in my career," Wriggelsworth said, "these nuisance fires associated with a win, a loss or some other reason. They're not fun. They're not fun. Frankly, they're idiotic and super dangerous." He said the Sheriff's Office plans to put resources into solving the fires and preventing them. Officials said they plan to solve some of the fires and make prosecutions, and work with MSU for further discipline for any students involved. Removing combustible material ahead of events and other efforts will be part of the process, officials said.

Spare Time has run out of spare chances as the classic Frandor-area bowling alley is undergoing demolition. The wooden lanes have been taken out, to be used for a roller rink at High Kaliber in the Meridian Mall in Okemos. The former bowling alley property closed after a May 2025 fire and other complications, according to a statement from the family. "After more than six decades as a beloved gathering place—first as



Holiday Lanes and later as Spare Time Entertainment—we are sad to share that our doors will not reopen," the family said in a statement on their website. The 3.2-acre property is listed for sale for nearly $5 million. A pitch for the property on LoopNet paints it as a potential "extended-stay/upscale all-suite hotel/limited-service hotel," with 200 residential units and 10,000 square feet of retail space in a five- or six-story building.

Dallas-based WT Project Owner LLC would like to build a new data center on 200 acres of vacant land at 6180 Nixon Road in Ingham County. The company submitted a proposal for the center last Friday to Windsor Township. The property – near the corner of Pinch Highway and Lansing Road by the interchange of I-69 and Lake Interstate – is zoned M1 (light industrial). The center, at least the fourth data center proposed in Greater Lansing in the past year, would include two buildings totaling nearly a million square feet. The township is expected to schedule an open house and a special meeting of its board for discussion of the proposal.



A bullet shot by a deer hunter in Olive Township Sunday passed through a nearby resident's home, coming within three feet of striking someone, according to a homeowner. Sue Harr told the Lansing State Journal that the round from a high-powered rifle entered the back of their house on South DeWitt Road and went out through a stained glass window, just missing her husband. Neither was injured, but Michigan Department of Natural Resources officials said they've identified the hunter and plan to submit information to the Clinton County Prosecutor's Office.

The correct date for the "Celebration of Life" memorial service for the late former Lansing Mayor David Hollister is Mon., Nov. 23, at Lansing Community College. The Gannon Building Commons on Grand Ave. will open at 2 p.m. and the ceremony will begin at 2:30 p.m.



Lansing can do better than a tent in a park

By KYLE MELINN

Fifteen years ago, then-Mayor Virg Bernero wrapped himself in the "Occupy Wall Street" movement by allowing protesters to "occupy Lansing" by sleeping overnight at Reutter Park, across Capitol Avenue from the library.



POLITICS

Bernero, coming off an unsuccessful gubernatorial run, saw political mileage in latching onto a national movement about financial inequality. The "1%" own everything and the rest of us, the "99%" are doing our best to make do the best we can.

From October and into the winter, Bernero let protesters slowly turn Reutter Park into a collection of tents and tarps that looked more like a homeless encampment than an organized protest.

Ultimately, the unsightly health and fire hazard got too much. The liability of passively letting someone potentially freeze to death by sleeping under the stars in a Lansing park drove Bernero to end the continuous sleepovers.

By early December, the city had spent $20,000 over the two months of "occupation" to provide sanitation, trash pickup and public services to the park.

Fast-forward to last year when Judge Rosemarie Aquilina toured the largest homeless encampment I've ever seen, behind Piazzano's restaurant off Grand River Avenue. The judge spent more than an hour talking to residents, several of whom had been living in the woods beside the Grand River for more than two years.

Appalled by it all, the judge ordered the city to move the people to what ended up being the Causeway Bay hotel. From there, many of them were offered services and a road to self-sufficiency.

When I poked my head into this old property two weeks ago, it appeared the encampment had been long abandoned.

And finally, it's only been a few months since the most recent person had their face smashed in, potentially from a serial killer police suspect may be targeting unhoused men in the middle of the night. As a frequent River Trail user myself, I haven't seen a collection of homeless people living along the trail in months.

With these past events as a backdrop, it's not hard to see why Lansing City Councilmember Deyanira Nevarez Martinez's recent proposal to open select city parks from dusk to dawn for 60 days isn't the solution.

There's the cost, the community aesthetics, the lack of facilities, the threat of open fires – all of the same issues that came with the "Occupy" encampments.

Wrapping our arms around finding acceptable places for people to sleep outdoors in the winter, by extension, means we find it acceptable that people sleep outdoors in the winter. Judge Aquilina reminded us all last year that it was not.

And let's not forget, WE STILL HAVEN'T FOUND THE SERIAL KILLER OF HOMELESS MEN! Is it a stretch to think this person would find a way into one of these proposed parks, nearly all of which are in neighborhoods?

Opening parks to camping, for any length of time, is a hard no.

What her proposal does is spur city leaders, and really all of us, into action.

It forces us to find and fund solutions that appeal to our humanity and sense of decency. Clearly, the city can be prodded into action when forced, as Judge Aquilina proved.

The solution isn't a winter encampment at Willoughby Park or on the River Trail underneath the Kalamazoo Street Bridge.

It starts with a plan crafted by experts on how to transition the unhoused to more stable accommodations. Can we get a rough count of Lansing's homeless population? Where are there available beds? Heated indoor accommodations with facilities? Are there enough service providers to pull it off?

From there, city leaders need to put their stamp on it, city workers to make it happen, and for all of us to be fine paying for the solution with our tax dollars.

Of course, we're not the only community with a homeless population. Some may be concerned that any services we provide will draw more unhoused people to our community. The more we provide, the more folks will take advantage of the services.

That's one way to look at it.

Another way is that by showing the rest of Michigan a model policy that's funded by the public, other communities will have the courage to follow suit.

(Kyle Melinn is the editor of the Capitol news service MIRS. You can email him at melinnky@gmail.com.)









Lieza Klemm/City Pulse

Interiors of the NOVA Housing Initiative/Mod Pod units, on display at Lansing City Hall this summer.

Mod Pods pushed back again as city makes new winter shelter plans

By LIEZA KLEMM

It has been just over a year since Lansing bought 50 modular housing units, better known as Mod Pods, to try to help the ongoing struggle of the estimated thousands who are experiencing homelessness in Lansing.

Then-HRCS Deputy Director Delvata Moses said the pods would house 66 residents experiencing homelessness and help them transition to permanent housing.

Initially, HRCS aimed to break ground in March 2026 and open operations for the pods in June if "all goes well."

Then-HRCS Director Kimberly Coleman told City Pulse in August 2025 that the purchase was made somewhat rapidly.

"Because the purchase was time-sensitive, we moved quickly to address an urgent need," she said at the time. "That speed came at the expense of upfront planning in some areas," Coleman said, and that department would create a plan with "clear milestones."

City Council approved the request for $640,000 for 50 modular housing units from Kalamazoo-based Housing Resources Inc. (HRI); the vote was met with largely public approval for the project.

HRI had put the pods up for sale after canceling its own transitional housing project. The nonprofit, which connects Kalamazoo County residents with housing resources, hit several snags when trying to find a potential location for the pods. Lansing city officials believed they had sidestepped that problem by looking at city-owned property for the pod sites.



Leo V. Kaplan/City Pulse

Byrd Tanner spoke about the project during a January meeting where officials decided to go with the parking lot idea instead of using one of the options of a city park.



Leo V. Kaplan/City Pulse

Shantel Spears, a formerly homeless resident, spoke during a January meeting in support of the parking lot proposal.

Coleman retired as director in February and now leads the project for the city. In a July meeting with city council members,

Coleman described the difficulties of the project in a July meeting with City Council members, saying, "we had really grandiose ideas."

In a late August meeting with the public, officials with the Nova project said they had finally been able to hire a construction manager. The manager was needed to create a site plan and a timeline.

In November, council members were told that the priorities were shifting to a low-barrier winter shelter, with the Mod Pods being pushed off for another winter.

A year and some change later, the timeline for the urgent project is as clear as mud.

Paved lot instead of park

Over several months and numerous community meetings, the original supportive response from Lansing residents shifted into an onslaught of critiques, ranging from the plan's development to site proposals

See Mod Pods, Page 12

Mod Pods

from page 11

for the pods.

After narrowing down 48 possible locations, the city presented five finalists to the public: Comstock Park, Hunter Park, Reasoner Park, the former warming house in Debbie Stabenow Park and the former Shabazz Academy.

Then the city completely switched course.

In January of this year, two advisory boards recommended the Ingham County Health and Human Services parking lot for the pods. Lansing Mayor Andy Schor supported their choice.

In the midst of the city deciding where to put the pods, leadership at HRCS changed. Coleman resigned, and Moses was named as interim director. In a statement announcing her resignation, Schor said Coleman would continue to work on the transitional housing project.

A Request for Proposal went out to find an organization to handle daily operations and case management for the initiative. In July, city officials announced that Detroit Rescue Mission Ministries (DRMM), the proposal's only applicant, would run the Mod Pod community.

The annual cost of daily maintenance of the pods - including restrooms, laundry facilities, a community room, meeting and training spaces, 24/7 security and "resident empowerment programming" - is estimated at $952,335, roughly $14,400 per person. The city set aside about $1.9 million for site preparation and construction.

The most recent community meeting was in August. Representatives from DRMM, HRCS, the architect and construction companies updated residents on the project's status. HRCS's former director Coleman was also present as a "transitional housing and homelessness strategy consultant."

The meeting marked progress on the project; a construction manager had finally been hired after two unsuccessful rounds.

But given the pods' purpose and the designated location, which had moved from the county building's east lot to the west, nothing about the project was standardized.

During the meeting, Clark Construction Company President Robert LaLonde said they had trouble finding a building code to assign the project, forcing the company to consider "doing it under a different kind of campground code." The construction firm is the project's general contractor.



Lieza Klemm/City Pulse

Developers of Lansing's NOVA Housing Initiative (Mod Pods) met in August with community members and gave an update on the project.

Long-term funding sources and the potential burden on taxpayers to keep the project running remain up in the air. Coleman said in August that similar programs rely on a mix of private, public, and federal funding, and the city's initiative will "be doing the same."

HRCS has not provided a construction progress for the community or City Council since that August meeting.

Shifting priorities

Last week, HRCS Interim Director Moses brought a report to the Lansing City Council to update officials on "homelessness efforts." Moses told council members that while the department is not switching gears entirely, priorities are changing from Mod Pods to an emergency drop-in center.

The priority now is setting up an "emergency" low-barrier, overnight drop-in center, meant to be open during the winter months, then focus on establishing a permanent center.

"The emergency overnight center addressed the immediate gaps," Moses said. "So, our top priority right now is getting the low-barrier drop-in center up and running to address the current street and winter conditions, which require an immediate response."

The center will be open daily from 8 p.m. to 8 a.m. Moses said the department is working to open a center at Union Baptist Church as an alternative for families with minor children.

The Lansing Planning Commission and City Council are expected to review the necessary zoning changes and permits for the temporary drop-in center next month. HRCS general funds, a portion of the City's 2025 opioid crisis settlement and $100,000 from Ingham County's housing and homeless millage will fund the temporary drop-in center.

'Not just stringing us along'

Five months have passed since the Mod Pod project's original anticipated opening date. Moses said the units will be operational "sometime next year."

Councilmember Deyanria Nevarez Martinez said it was troubling to hear the project was delayed once again.

"The last update we had gave us an impression of something that's obviously not happening," she said. "These updates need to actually have outcomes, not just stringing us along on something that's actually been very expensive and will continue to be very expensive for our city."



Lieza Klemm/City Pulse

Kim Coleman, left, and other officials with Lansing's NOVA Housing Initiative (Mod Pods) during a public meeting in August.

Mayor Andy Schor said the construction crew was seeing "significant issues that are involved," including site leveling, hooking up utilities and building a permanent shelter for extreme weather conditions.

"The pods will continue, but we have to navigate funding," he said. "We want to get folks off the street ... but there are limited resources."

The temporary drop-in center presented to Lansing City Council has been in the works for months, according to city spokesperson Scott Bean. The first group chosen to operate a "Cold Blue" emergency center dropped out at the last minute, and the city pivoted.

"We went kind of hardcore, full speed ahead on, 'Let's do this seven days a week, every night through the winter, not just Code Blue nights,'" he said.

The center will be in the former Salvation Army building off of Pennsylvania Ave., and will include 70 beds.

Detroit Rescue Mission Ministries will be operating the center, Bean told City Pulse.

Continued delays

According to Ingham County Commissioner Chair Ryan Sebolt, there are options on the table for saving money, as a trade-off instead of opening sooner.

The county is building a new juvenile detention center, with construction supposed to start next year. When the new facility is finished and the old one is emptied, the NOVA Housing Initiative could use the old center as a site.

Sebolt said it would eliminate a significant number of the issues the construction contractor is encountering.

"There would be no utility hookup that's needed because it's already hooked up," he said. "There'd be no need to build other structures to facilitate the pods because we can use the building that already exists. So we can actually take that off the price tag and present considerable savings on building, and then have more money for services if we delay."

Waiting for construction of the new facility to finish would mean delaying opening the pods until 2028, if not later.

Sebolt told City Pulse he "threw that option out" to Mayor Schor and other staff members involved in the project, but the city is "really in the driver's seat on this."

It is unclear how seriously the city and HRCS are considering the possibility. City spokesperson Scott Bean said "it's one of the options on the table" the city is looking at, but "we would really like to get

See Mod Pods, Page 13



Mod Pods

from page 12

up and running sooner than 2028."

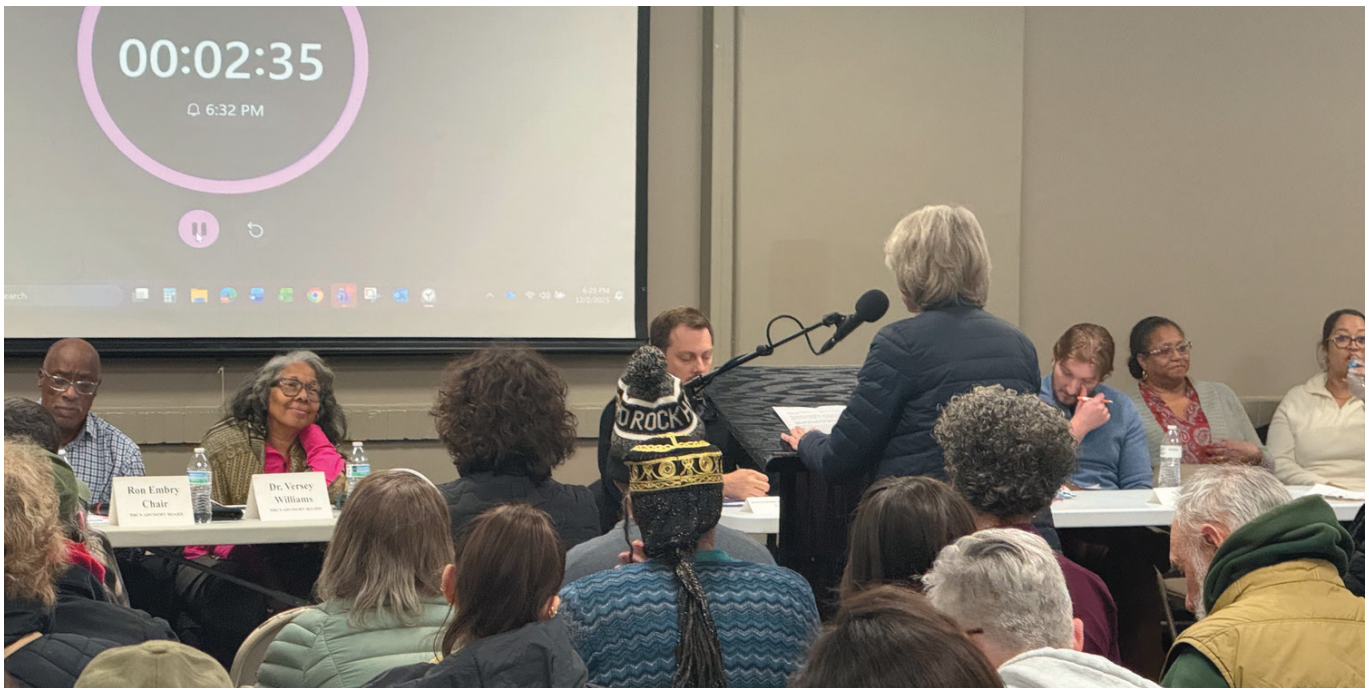
According to Bean, the initial $1.9 million set aside for site preparation and construction is no longer accurate. Moving the site to the county building's west side parking lot ratcheted up the price tag, and final cost estimates are being evaluated.

When asked whether the city had sufficiently provided progress checks to the public, Bean said it was "subjective."

"It's tough because a lot of stuff is happening behind the scenes," he said. "It's hard to put out a public update about, 'Hey, we had a meeting with the construction team to go through utility plans.'"

In terms of tangible next steps, Bean said the city is "still just working with the construction partners at this point."

Lansing City Council President Peter Spadafore was unreachable for comment about the council's response to the delays.



Leo V. Kaplan/City Pulse

Joan Nelson, the retired founding director of the Allen Neighborhood Center, spoke at a December 2025 meeting about the Mod Pod community.

The push for a comprehensive plan

City officials are facing mounting backlash from advocates for the unhoused as the city continues to crack down on homeless encampments.

Advocates are demanding actionable solutions–recent killings and approaching winter weather make living on the street dangerous–but have yet to see any long-term or permanent proposals from the city come to fruition.

During a city council meeting on Monday, councilmember Nevarez Martinez opened with a biting statement condemning the city's response, or lack thereof, to the demand for effective transitional and affordable housing for those experiencing homelessness.

"I have grown increasingly frustrated by our city's lack of a comprehensive homelessness strategy," she said. "[The Nov. 9 city council] meeting made something painfully clear to me ... we do not have a plan."

Nevarez Martinez proposed an emergency ordinance putting a 60-day moratorium on encampment sweeps and allowing encampments in select city parks. She also proposed an ad hoc committee to craft a strategy.

The number of residents who spoke in support of, and against, taking up the ordinance and establishing the committee during the public comment portion of the meeting took up well over an hour.

Khadja Erickson, the executive director of the Tenant Resource Center Mid-Michigan, criticized the council for focusing on insufficient temporary fixes, namely the emergency drop-in center. "In 2026, we found over 800 people in our point-in-time count. 70 beds is not even 10% of that number," they said. "You're not doing anything, nothing really, to actually put a dent in what is happening."

Other residents opposed the ordinance, citing concerns for homeowner and business owner safety.

Both the resolution to establish the committee and the passage of the ordinance were pushed to December. Council President Peter Spadafore said the Microsoft Outlook outage from last week led to issues drafting the resolution to create the committee.

Nevarez Martinez said the delay would give her more time to work on the details of the ordinance and rally support from her fellow council members. The ordinance needs a two-thirds majority vote to pass.

The Dec. 7 council meeting will be held in the new City Hall.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
EAST LANSING CITY COUNCIL

Notice is hereby given of the following public hearings to be held by the East Lansing City Council on **Tuesday, December 8, 2026 at 6:30 p.m.** at the **East Lansing Hannah Community Center**, 819 Abbot Road, East Lansing, MI, 48823.

1. A public hearing to receive comments on a request from Joe Locricchio, on behalf of Gateway of East Lansing LLC, for approval of a Special Use Permit to convert vacant ground-floor retail space to six efficiency apartment units at 300 W. Grand River Avenue. The property is zoned B-2, Retail Sales Business District.

A staff report (Agenda Item Report) for each public hearing will be published on the City's website the Friday before the meeting. To locate staff reports, please visit the City's public meeting portal at https://cityofeastlansing.civicweb.net/Portal/ and select the meeting date.

The public may attend and participate at all meetings in person. Members of the public may also participate virtually via Zoom. Please contact City Clerk Emily Gordon at 517.319.6891 or emily.gordon@cityofeastlansing.com (410 Abbot Road, East Lansing, MI 48823) for additional information. Electronic access information is available on the City's public meeting portal at https://cityofeastlansing.civicweb.net/Portal/.

Materials related to the request are available for viewing at the Department of Planning, Building, and Development, East Lansing City Hall, 410 Abbot Road, East Lansing, MI, 48823 between the hours of 8:00 am and 5:00 pm or on the City's website located at www.cityofeastlansing.com/currentapplications. Written comments may be sent prior to the public hearing to City Council, City of East Lansing, 410 Abbot Road, East Lansing, Michigan, 48823, or by email to council@cityofeastlansing.com

The City of East Lansing will provide reasonable auxiliary aids and services, such as interpreters for the hearing impaired and audio tapes of printed materials being considered at the meeting, to individuals with disabilities upon request received by the City seven (7) calendar days prior to the meeting. Individuals with disabilities requiring aids or services must contact the City Council's Office, 410 Abbot Road, East Lansing, MI, 48823, (517) 319-6869 (TDD Number: 1-800-649-3777) or via email at ajwilliams@cityofeastlansing.com.

This notice is posted in compliance with P.A. 267 of 1976 as amended (Open Meetings Act) and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and published in compliance with the Michigan Zoning Enabling Act, 2006 P.A. 110.

Dated: November 12, 2026
East Lansing, MI 48823

Emily Gordon
City Clerk

CP#26-430

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN, INGHAM COUNTY
LEGAL AD NOTICE: Text Amendment #2026-11
Youth Commission Establishment

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
LEGAL NOTICE
Zoning Amendment #2026-11 (Youth Commission Establishment)

The Township Board at its regular meeting on November 5, 2026 approved for introduction and subsequent adoption Ordinance 2026-11, an Ordinance amending the code of the charter Township of Meridian, Ingham County to establish a Youth Commission.

A complete copy of the amendment may be viewed at the Community Planning and Development office, 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, Michigan 48864-1198 (phone 517-853-4560), between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Angela Demas
Township Clerk
Wednesday, November 18, 2026

CP#26-428

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Escape from New York

Joshua Gersen brings metropolitan mojo to Lansing Symphony

By LAWRENCE COSENTINO

In February 2017, Joshua Gersen made an unexpected and dramatic subscription concert debut with the New York Philharmonic. In the middle of a time-crunched rehearsal that was pushed to late afternoon by a snowstorm, music director Semyon Bychkov fell ill and was taken to the hospital. Gersen finished the rehearsal and mounted the podium a couple of hours later to conduct Tchaikovsky's epic "Pathétique" symphony, which he'd never conducted before, and two other works.

When it was all over, the orchestra stood and applauded his last-minute heroics. The New York Times called the performance "passionate and incisive."

Gersen faces a slightly less nerve-wracking challenge Saturday, as the third of five guest conductors leading the Lansing Symphony Orchestra this season to determine who will fill the shoes of departing music director Timothy Muffitt.

"Working together for the first time is a bit like a first date," Gersen said. "Sometimes you lock in, and sometimes it takes a bit of time to get on the same page. It's the unknown. All you can do is go in there and do your thing, do what you do the best you can."

Gersen's tenure as assistant conductor in New York ended in 2018. He has enjoyed being the music director of the New York Youth Symphony, taking the group on its first international tour in 50 seasons, and guest conducting with the San Francisco Symphony, the Chicago Symphony and many other ensembles, but he's ready for new horizons.

"I'm from (New York), and I've been here for quite a while, but I'm looking for the next chapter, hoping to find an orchestra to work with regularly," Gersen said.

He has worked several times with the Detroit Symphony, including a 2019 screening of "Jaws" with John Williams' famous score performed live, and done conducting workshops in Ann Arbor, but he's never been to Lansing.

"Talking to the administration and the committee in Lansing, I was really impressed with how organized, how stable everything seems to be there," he said. "They're in good shape in many ways and looking to grow the ensemble, and that's exactly the kind of situation I'm looking for."



Photo by Chris Lee

Former New York Philharmonic assistant conductor Joshua Gersen is the third of five guest conductors leading the Lansing Symphony Orchestra this season to determine who will fill the shoes of departing music director Timothy Muffitt.

Lansing Symphony Orchestra

Joshua Gersen, guest conductor
Will Hagen, violin
7:30 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 21
Wharton Center Cobb Great Hall
750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing
(517) 487-5001
lansingsymphony.org

In the wider world, conducting is a rare life choice, but for Gersen, it was inevitable. He started conducting — and reading scores — when he was 3 years old. An early hero was the charismatic New York Philharmonic maestro Leonard Bernstein.

"For me and my family, a Jewish family in New York City, he was incredibly important, our champion in many ways," Gersen said. "At the centennial of his birthday, I actually got to conduct 'West Side Story' with the New York Philharmonic, and that was really special for me."

Another early influence was Gustav Meier, music director of the Lansing Symphony from 1978 to 2006.

"I was very, very lucky that he happened to be conducting the Bridgeport Symphony in Connecticut when I was growing up right around there," Gersen said. "I got in touch with him and got to study with him all through high school, and he was a really important person in my life growing up."

On the podium, Gersen is muscular, grounded and precise.

"There are a lot of conductors out there who are a little more flamboyant in their gestures than I tend to be," he said. "But for me, it's about studying the music and, when I'm up there, trying to recreate the music as the composer wanted to hear it and helping the musicians on stage play the best they can. It's not about me at all."

Gersen is impressed by the innovative programs the Lansing Symphony established during Muffitt's tenure, such as the composer-in-residence program and the new music series LSO at The Robin. He hopes to extend the orchestra's reach further with concerts and casual events in non-traditional venues around the community.

"The biggest problem we run into, as far as attracting a broader audience, is that many people still feel like it's some kind of elitist club they don't belong to," he said. "Anything we can do to make everybody feel welcome, make it an enjoyable experience, is important."

He's happy to talk from the stage about the music on the program, and he likes the idea of turning pre-concert talks into podcasts people can listen to in the car on the way to the concert hall.

"There are so many interesting things about the music we're performing," he said, and he'd like to make people aware of that "any way we can."

For Saturday's concert, Gersen picked three works that, in his view, "deliver a universal message."

Chris Rogerson wrote the evening's opener, "Noble Pond," after the tragic death in 2007 of 5-year-old Austin Haley, who was fishing with his grandfather in an Oklahoma pond when a police officer fired at a snake nearby and a bullet struck him.

The simple lyricism and beauty of "Noble Pond" often reduces audiences to a reverent silence.

"Chris is a very good friend of mine. We went to school together," Gersen said. "He's a wonderful composer whose music should be played more often."

Gersen said the other works on the program, Sibelius' violin concerto and Beethoven's Fifth Symphony, "are obviously kind of iconic and don't need much introduction" but build on the same emotional arc.

"It's a program about overcoming adversity," Gersen said. "Chris' piece is about a specific tragic event. Sibelius' concerto was written when he was going through a lot of things personally, and he was wistfully lamenting the fact that he could never play violin himself. And, of course, the Beethoven Fifth is the quintessential example of humans facing the greatest adversity and triumphing over it. It's a very heavy but uplifting program."



Live & Local

CityPULSE

All Saints Episcopal Church
800 Abbot Road, East Lansing
The Coffeehouse at All Saints
Fri., Nov. 20, 7:30-9:30 p.m.

The Avenue
2021 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing
Thursdays Spinnin' and Groovin'
Thurs., Nov. 19, 9 p.m.
Matthew Carlson & Jeffery Gower
Sun., Nov. 22, 7 p.m.
Punksgiving w/ The Louderthans, The Aliens
Wed., Nov. 25, 9 p.m.

BrickHaven Brewing Co.
200 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge
Helena Lost
Fri., Nov. 20, 6-9 p.m.
Piper Avenue
Sat., Nov. 21, 6:30-9:30 p.m.

Classic Pub & Grill
16219 Old U.S. 27, Lansing
Sandra Faye
Fri., Nov. 20, 8 p.m.-midnight

Dublin Square
327 Abbot Road, East Lansing
Matthew Shannon
Wed., Nov. 18, 9 p.m.-midnight
Roxy Riot
Thurs., Nov. 19, 9 p.m.-midnight
The Reason You Came
Wed., Nov. 25, 9 p.m.-midnight

EagleMonk Pub and Brewery
4906 W. Mount Hope Hwy., Lansing
Chad and Ed of Flat Water Band
Wed., Nov. 18, 7-9 p.m.

Eaton Rapids Craft Co.
204 N. Main St., Eaton Rapids
Flipside
Fri., Nov. 20, 6-9 p.m.
Shane Gruesbeck
Sat., Nov. 21, doors 6-9 p.m.

Facility for Rare Isotope Beams
640 S. Shaw Lane, East Lansing
Chamber music recital: Blazing Star Oboe Quartet, Fire Dance Brass Quintet, Shostakovich Trio
Fri., Nov. 20, 5:30 p.m.

Fay's Evelyn Bay Coffee
134 S. Cochran Road, Charlotte
Rat Pack
Sat., Nov. 21, 2-4 p.m.

The Fledge
1300 Eureka St., Lansing
Trans Lives Matter talent showcase
Sun., Nov. 22, 8 p.m.

Fraternal Order of Eagles
3022 W. St. Joseph St., Lansing
Breaking Bread with the Blues
Sun., Nov. 22, 4-8 p.m.

Gjoni's Bar and Restaurant
662 W. Grand River Ave., Okemos
Christoper Barrick
Thurs., Nov. 19, 6-8 p.m.
T.M. Olson
Fri., Nov. 20, 6-8 p.m.
Peggy Nusz & MichiganRay
Wed., Nov. 25, 6-8 p.m.

Grand Ledge Opera House
121 S. Bridge St., Grand Ledge
Lansing Theatre Organ: "The Passion of Joan of Arc" (1928)
Sun., Nov. 22, 3 p.m.

The Green Door
2005 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing
Wavelength
Wed., Nov. 18, 10 p.m.-2 a.m.
Kill the Mood, The Half Notes, Sour Orchid, Dying in December, Born Hostile
Fri., Nov. 20, doors 5 p.m., show 5:30 p.m.
Bassgiving w/ Dead Beat, Frankie Far, ZoXo, Tigerlily
Fri., Nov. 20, doors 10 p.m.
Be Kind Rewind, Audiogarden
Sat., Nov. 21, doors 7 p.m., show 8 p.m.
Global Village
Wed., Nov. 25, doors 7 p.m., show 8 p.m.

Grewal Hall
224 S. Washington Square, Lansing
Tom Rush
Sat., Nov. 21, doors 7 p.m., show 8 p.m.

Horrocks Farm Market
7420 W. Saginaw Hwy., Lansing
Sweet C & the Sunset Riders
Thurs., Nov. 19, 5-8 p.m.
Deacon Earl and the Congregation wsg Tonia
Fri., Nov. 20, 5-8 p.m.
Elements of Soul
Sat., Nov. 21, 5-8 p.m.
John Beltran
Sun., Nov. 22, 2-7 p.m.

The Irish Pub
1910 W. Saginaw St., Lansing
Open mic night, with Scott Seth
Thurs., Nov. 19, 6:30-9:30 p.m.
Just Magnetic
Sat., Nov. 21, 8 p.m.
Universe Band
Wed., Nov. 25, 8 p.m.

La Mulata
5334 S. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., Lansing
Perreo Only Fest
Sat., Nov. 21, 10 p.m.-2 a.m.

Lansing Brewing Co.
518 E. Shiawassee St., Lansing
Jessey Adams
Thurs., Nov. 19, 5-8 p.m.

Lansing Shuffle
325 Riverfront Drive, Lansing
Friendsgiving Wednesday w/ DJ E-Nyce and DJ Frost
Wed., Nov. 25, 10 p.m.-1:30 a.m.

Looking Glass Brewing Co.
115 N. Bridge St., DeWitt
Ben Awrey
Fri., Nov. 20, 6-9 p.m.

Mac's Bar
2700 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing
KAameo
Fri., Nov. 20, 8 p.m.
Let It Rot, Selias, The Grady Clan
Sat., Nov. 21, 8 p.m.
Open mic night
Mon., Nov. 23, 6-8 p.m.
Unity — In Music
Thurs., Nov. 19, 9 p.m.-2 a.m.
Tues., Nov. 24, 10 p.m.-2 a.m.

Mash Bar
212 Albert Ave., East Lansing
Billy Gunther & The Midwest Riders
Wed., Nov. 18, 7-10 p.m.

Mayfair Bar
1589 Lake Lansing Road, Haslett
Billie Gene
Sat., Nov. 21, 7-10 p.m.
Morgan Wally & Friends acoustic sessions
Mon., Nov. 23, 9-11 p.m.

Moriarty's Pub
802 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing
Open mic night, with Jen Sygit
Wed., Nov. 18, 8-11 p.m.
Slice
Thurs., Nov. 19, 9 p.m.-midnight
The Further Adventures of FatBoy & JiveTurkey
Fri., Nov. 20, 8 p.m.-midnight
Gina Garner & the All Night Long Band
Sat., Nov. 21, 8 p.m.-midnight
Jazz Tuesdays
Tues., Nov. 24, 7-10 p.m.
Open mic night, with Jen Sygit
Wed., Nov. 25, 8-11 p.m.

MSU College of Music
Spartan Youth Wind Symphony and Wind Symphony
Sun., Nov. 22, 3 p.m.
Wharton Center, 750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing
Symphony Orchestra, "Fire and Flourish"
Mon., Nov. 23, 7:30 p.m.
Wharton Center
Symphony Band
Tues., Nov. 24, 7:30 p.m.
Wharton Center

Nico's Pub and Grill
117 S. Bridge St., Dimondale
Universe Band
Fri., Nov. 20, 7:30-11:30 p.m.
Velocity Shift
Wed., Nov. 25, 8-11:30 p.m.

Nuthouse Sports Grill
420 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing
Starfarm
Wed., Nov. 25, 8:30 p.m.

Okemos High School
2800 Jolly Road, Okemos
Mason Symphony fall concert
Sun., Nov. 22, 3-5 p.m.

Old Town Cultural Center
408 E. César E. Chávez Ave., Lansing
The Springtails, Gerald Ross
Thurs., Nov. 19, 7:30-10 p.m.

One North Lansing
5001 W. Saginaw Hwy., Lansing
Open mic night, with Kathy Ford
Mon., Nov. 23, 6:30-9 p.m.

The Peanut Barrel
521 E. Grand River Ave., East Lansing
Mike McConeghy
Tues., Nov. 24, 6-8 p.m.

Red Cedar Spirits
2000 Merritt Road, East Lansing
Live music
Fri., Nov. 20, 7:30-10:30 p.m.
Live jazz music
Sun., Nov. 22, 6-9 p.m.

The Robin Theatre
1105 S. Washington Ave., Lansing
FLYDLPHN
Thurs., Nov. 19, 7:30 p.m.

Ryan Records
DM ryanrecordsofficial on Instagram for address
Nunya, Crying at Work, Year of the Snake, Bleeder!
Thurs., Nov. 19, doors 6:30 p.m., music 7 p.m.

Sholty's Bar
1821 S. Washington Ave., Lansing
Spoonful
Tues., Nov. 24, 6-9 p.m.

Stober's Bar
812 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing
Johnny Aimcrier
Sun., Nov. 22, 10 p.m.-1 a.m.
Your Dad
Tues., Nov. 24, 10 p.m.-1 a.m.

Summerlands Brewing Co.
1957 Cedar St., Holt
Open mic & karaoke
Thurs., Nov. 19, 7-10 p.m.
Obviously Famous duo
Fri., Nov. 20, 7-10 p.m.

Tony M's Restaurant & Banquet Center
3420 S. Creyts Road, Lansing
Frog & the Beeftones
Wed., Nov. 18, 6-9 p.m.

Unicorn Bar
327 E. César E. Chávez Ave., Lansing
Michael Root
Thurs., Nov. 19, 7 p.m.
New Rule
Fri., Nov. 20, 8 p.m.
Northside Rhythm Kings
Sat., Nov. 21, 8 p.m.
Atomic Annie
Wed., Nov. 25, 7 p.m.

UrbanBeat
1213 Turner St., Lansing
Midweek Music Lounge
Wed., Nov. 18, 6-9 p.m.
Thursday's Jazz Jam
Thurs., Nov. 19, 7 p.m.
Big Fun
Fri., Nov. 20, 7 p.m.
The Collective presents Motown
Sat., Nov. 21, 7 p.m.
Dixon's Violin
Sun., Nov. 22, 4 p.m.
Midweek Music Lounge
Wed., Nov. 25, 6-9 p.m.

Wharton Center
750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing
Lansing Symphony Orchestra MasterWorks: Beethoven 5
Sat., Nov. 21, 7:30 p.m.

Williamston Roadhouse
3700 E. Grand River Road, Williamston
Steve Shelhart
Wed., Nov. 18, 7-10 p.m.
Crash Landing
Sat., Nov. 21, 7-11 p.m.
DJ **Tyler**
Wed., Nov. 25, 7-11 p.m.

Additionally, the **Unity in Music Holiday Give Back** will run from noon Sunday to 2 a.m. Monday at Old Town's Unicorn Bar, UrbanBeat, Sir Pizza and MICA Gallery.

Willie Johnson finds catharsis in revisiting past traumas

By KURT ANTHONY KRUG

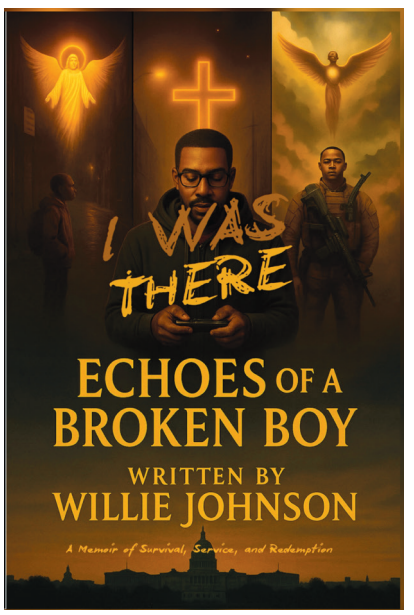
Military veteran Willie Johnson didn't want his children to guess who he was or why he was the way he was.

That's one of the reasons he wrote "I Was There: Echoes of a Broken Boy." Johnson published the memoir through LivOutUrDream LLC, a creative brand he founded in late 2025 dedicated to storytelling, music and personal transformation.

"Writing gives them something they can come back to. It gives our family a record beyond the things we happened to talk about," Johnson said. "And for somebody outside my family, I hope the book says this: You can be carrying a lot and still have something to give. I was there. I am here. And I'm still working on what comes next."

The impetus to write "I Was There" came while attending grief counseling after the death of his father. However, he explained that there was so much more connected to it. He felt like he needed to go back to the beginning.

"I started putting down what I remembered," he said. "I used conversations with ChatGPT to help unpack the memories and organize them into chapters, and I asked family members questions as things came back to me. I also wanted to look back and ask where God had been through all of it. What started as trying to understand my own life became 'I Was There.'"



A Washington, D.C., native, Johnson grew up around addiction, incarceration, violence and loss.

"My mother was shot while she was pregnant with me, so the story begins before I could even remember it," he said. "Later, I lost her while I was still a child. My father was incarcerated during parts of my childhood, and my grandparents stepped in to raise us. There was love in that home, but there was also grief I didn't know how to handle. I dealt with bullying and fighting, and I learned to put a hard face on things. As a boy, I didn't have the words to explain what I was carrying. A lot of that pain came out as anger."

Admittedly, he is still working through a lot.

"I can get up, take care of people and look like I have everything together while there is still a lot happening inside. That's something I've had to be honest about," he said. "My faith, my wife and children, counseling and writing have all been part of that work. The military taught me discipline, but I also had to learn that being able to keep going doesn't mean I've dealt with everything. Asking for help and looking at those memories gave me a way to start understanding them."

Writing "I Was There" was cathartic. At the same time, it was also difficult.

"Writing brought back things I hadn't thought about in years and some things I didn't remember until I started talking. There were moments when I had to stop," Johnson explained. "Writing about my brother's death was one of the hardest parts. I got to that chapter and struggled to move forward. There's a difference between knowing something happened and sitting down long enough to put it into words.

"I also had to think about the people who are still here," he continued. "This is my experience, but other people lived parts of it with me. I wanted to be honest without being careless with them."

He was especially worried about hurting his beloved grandmother.

"But she read the finished book — I think she read it four times — and our relationship grew stronger. That meant a lot to me," he said.

Writing the memoir helped him connect parts of his life that he'd been carrying separately.

"I could see how that little boy's grief followed me into being a soldier, a husband and a father," he said. "It follows the connections between childhood in D.C., military service, family, grief and faith. You see the boy before you see the soldier, and you see how what happened to him affected the man he became. I wanted to be honest about the parts that are hard to say out loud. I'm still learning, and that's in the story, too. Putting it into words didn't erase what happened, but it helped me understand myself. I hope someone reading it can recognize something of themselves and feel that their own story matters."



Courtesy

Willie Johnson

He spoke about founding LivOutUrDream.

"A friend of mine used the phrase 'live out your dream loud,' and it stayed with me. I know what it feels like to have ideas and experiences inside you without knowing how to bring them out. Learning to publish my own story showed me that I could help someone else do it, too," he said. "LOUD brings together storytelling, publishing, music and family creativity. I've helped with my son's comic and a fellow veteran's cookbook. I want people to see that their stories and their ideas are worth doing something with. For me, that's part of building a legacy."

Johnson is working on his second memoir, "I Am Here," which chronicles his family's move to Michigan. He is also adapting "I Was There" into a graphic novel. In the long run, he wants to turn the memoir interview process into a workbook or a class that helps people explore their lives and preserve their family histories.

"Through LOUD, I want to keep helping other people bring their work into the world," he said.

He gave some advice to people who have endured great trauma and hardship and want to write about it.

"Start with what you can say. You don't have to explain your whole life at once," he said. "Talk to someone you trust, ask for help, or write something down if that's where you can begin. I know what it is to put the face back on and go take care of the next person. But you need care, too. Give yourself room to get it. Your story matters — even the parts you haven't figured out how to tell yet."

About Willie Johnson

Born and raised in Washington, D.C., Willie Johnson is the second of four children. He lives in Lansing with his wife of nine years. The couple has five children, ages 20, 19, 16, 8 and 7.

Johnson is a graduate of Dunbar High School, where he participated in JROTC and the armed drill team. He completed some coursework at Prince George's Community College in Largo, Maryland.

From 2005 to 2009, he served in the D.C. National Guard. He started as a motor transport operator and later worked as an automated logistical specialist. His service included Hurricane Katrina relief and deployment to Iraq. His final rank was specialist (E-4), and his discharge from the military was general under honorable conditions.

"JROTC gave me structure and a sense of belonging," he said. "When I joined the D.C. National Guard, I saw a way to serve my country, learn a practical skill and still help my family. My grandmother depended on me, so those responsibilities were part of the decision."

It's gotta be the shoes

All of the Above Hip Hop Academy's Sneaker Gala showcased its future

By MR. JOE WALKER

It can be nice to get all dressed up with somewhere to go in Lansing. And nicer still if that somewhere is a fun, one-of-a-kind event that brings positivity to our youth.

All of the Above Hip Hop Academy held its fourth annual Sneaker Gala fundraiser at Lansing Shuffle in late October. About 250 attendees paired their classiest formal wear with their coolest designer sneakers to help the nonprofit raise donations to support its free youth programming.

All of the Above, among other things, connects young people with mentors who help to expand their universe of potential. Its programs provide a supplemental arts education led by established working artists and educators, with offerings including dance, music production and more.



All of the Above Hip Hop Academy instructors NewSense (Leah Koski), left, and Alien J (Janeil Foy) strike a pose at the organization's Sneaker Gala.

Photos by Mr. Joe Walker

AOTA executive director Ozay Moore said the organization holds the annual gala to tell the stories, not just to raise money.

"We know the resources and the support come not just in one night, but throughout the year," Moore said. "That's why we love doing it, and that's why we love our community, because they show up for us beyond just one night."

At the gala, the foundational elements of hip-hop culture — emceeing, deejaying, breaking, graffiti arts, knowledge, wisdom, understanding, love, peace, unity and having fun — were on full display.

"The night was a celebration of our community, the work we do, the vision, the mission and the people who are on the inside making it happen," Moore said. "A celebration of the community partners who, quite literally, give us space to demonstrate what we believe, and that's that hip-hop has transformational powers. It has the ability to shape our community, shape our young people, shape our minds and really bring folks together."

Backed by a list of sponsors that included LAFCU, PNC Bank, TechSmith, Sigma Financial Corp., Bellwether Public Relations, the Indigenous Youth Empowerment Program, Downtown Lansing Inc. and E&S, the gala saw AOTA students take center stage to showcase what they've learned for a receptive audience.

In turn, the audience showered the students with an impressive ovation.

All of the Above Youth Organization teaching artist Alexis Rosado served as the gala's emcee.

With the best seat in the house, Rosado said she got to see up close the bravery, confidence and boldness of the students.

"I feel like the students stole the show,"

See Hip Hop, Page 19



State of Michigan Probate Court, Ingham County. Notice to Creditors, Decedents Estate. Case No. & Judge: 2026-2124-DE, Hon. Shauna L. Dunnings P43714. Estate of Kenneth M. Rudick, deceased. DOB: na. Notice to Creditors: The decedent, Kenneth M. Rudick, died July 27, 2026. Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Annette K. Rudick, personal representative, or to both the probate court at 313 W. Kalamazoo St., Lansing, MI 48933, (517) 483-6300 and the personal representative within four months after the date of publication of this notice: 11-18-2026. Katelyn A. Sweeney P84365, Burgess & Sweeney Law, PC, 521 N. Franklin Street, Ste. A, Frankenmuth, MI 48734, (989)262-9130. Personal rep.: Annette K. Rudick, 313 W. Elm Street, Auburn, MI 48611.

CP#26-432

PUBLIC NOTICE WILLIAMSTOWN TOWNSHIP
Capital Improvement Plan (CIP)

The Williamstown Township Board of Trustees will hold a public hearing on the Williamstown Township proposed Capital Improvement Plan meeting on Wednesday, December 9, 2026 at 6:30 p.m. in conjunction with the regular monthly Board meeting.

The purpose of the public hearing is to obtain feedback from Williamstown Township residents and interested public on the Capital Improvement Plan proposed by the Planning Commission.

Robin A. Cleveland, MiPMC
Township Clerk

Individuals needing special services to fully participate in the meeting may contact the Township Office at (517) 655-3193 at least 5 days prior to the meeting to request necessary assistance.

CP#26-433



A fresh set of Nike Cortez sneakers designed by Detroit b-boy Sneaker Tek for the gala. They sold for $1,500.



Seen at the gala: Jose Aste, owner of Tantay Peruvian Cuisine; Ozay Moore, executive director of All of the Above Hip Hop Academy; and Christina Castilla, AOTA teaching artist.

Hip Hop

from page 18

Rosado said. "It was so cool to see smiling faces looking back at the students showcasing their joy. It was all about the students. I also got to see good fits, good vibes and cool sneakers."

Arguably the coolest shoes of the night were showcased during the sneaker auction.

A custom pair is donated each year by Detroit b-boy Sneaker Tek. This year, he contributed vivid Nike Cortez shoes emblazoned with the elements of hip-hop. They were claimed for $1,500.

AOTA programs and operations manager Carla Brooks said it's easy to see the future of the organization's programming because she's already witnessed it.

"At the first gala, I was just blown away and excited by what I was seeing, and now I'm seeing students that are now teachers," Brooks said. "At the same time, I don't know where else we're going. But, as hip-hop says, 'Hip-hop goes where the people go.' I don't know what's next, but I'm here for it."

Visit alloftheabovehiphop.org to donate and for programming info.



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

How it Works:

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Call (844) 554-1883

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

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www.veterancardonations.org/dnt223

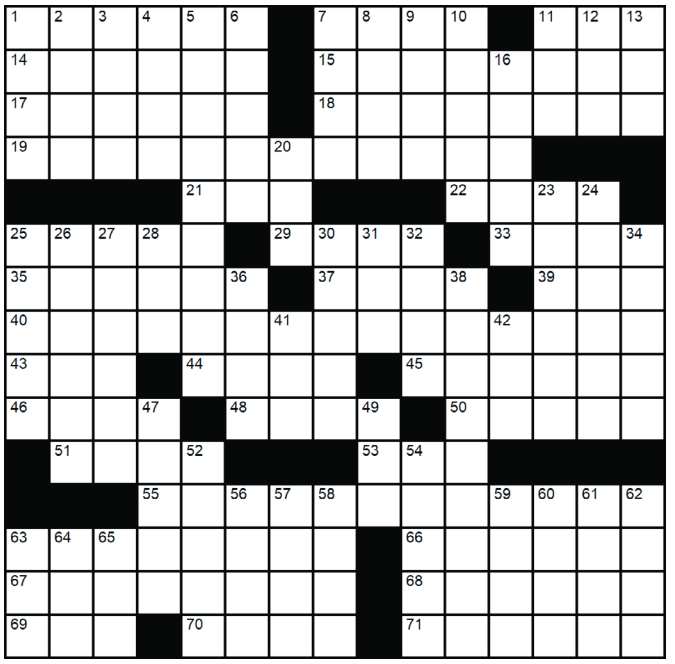
Veteran Car Donations

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.



Jonesin' Crossword

By Matt Jones



"The Age of Optimization" -- looks aren't the only thing.
by Matt Jones
© 2026 Matt Jones

ACROSS
1. Liang ___, figure in Chinese legend "The Butterfly Lovers"
7. Half-started?
11. Little doggie
14. Bullring figure
15. "Let's hope this movie screen is ginormous," perhaps?
17. Prebiotic soft drink brand since 2018
18. Sprang (from)
19. "Big Hero 6" robot belonging to someone who's lost her husband?
21. "Science Guy" Bill
22. Himalayan cryptid
25. Limited-time fast-food offering
29. Bristol brews
33. Jutland resident, maybe
35. "Gotcha"
37. Certain choir member
39. Solo played by Harrison
40. One who tries to figure out the physics of Thunderdome?
43. Iron source
44. Dance with glow sticks
45. Novelist Jennifer
46. "... three men in ___"
48. Rumple, as hair
50. ___ Island ("Jaws" town)
51. Dubious email
53. Calligrapher's item
55. Degradation of a VHS competitor?
63. Reaction to hearing the 1990s referred to as "late 20th-century"
66. Food critic's asset
67. Ethnomusicologist Alan's average grade?
68. Rodrigo with the album "You Seem Pretty Sad for a Girl So in Love"
69. "It's coming home" World Cup team, on scoreboards
70. Actor ___ Patrick Harris
71. Precipitates pellets

DOWN
1. Cram into the overhead
2. Festival of colors
3. Dry as a desert
4. ___ baby (celebrity offspring)
5. Kodiak, for one
6. "___-daisy!"
7. "Ev'ry time we say goodbye / I ___ little" (Cole Porter lyric)
8. Primetime or Daytime award
9. Palindromic title
10. "Negatory!"
11. Avocado center
12. Reap the benefit of
13. Master's follower, maybe
16. Did floor work
20. She played Dorothy on "The Golden Girls"
23. Sesame spread
24. Packaged together
25. Jason of "A Minecraft Movie"
26. Some song lists
27. Creep higher, as clothing
28. Philosopher's suffix
30. Bowling shoe fasteners
31. Cotton gin inventor Whitney
32. Beefy dish
34. Contest submission
36. Quiz
38. Everybody, inclusively
41. "Law & Order: ___"
42. "Ed Wood" director Burton
47. Tower in Genesis
49. Place for restoration
52. Edible fruit arrangement ingredient, perhaps
54. Montreal baseball team, once
56. Big book
57. Jai ___
58. 1540, in old Rome
59. "Dawn" author Wiesel
60. Spelunker's hangout
61. Working away
62. Affirmative votes
63. Arctic sight
64. Boggy lowland
65. Neurological test, briefly

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Answers on page 22

SUDOKU

Intermediate

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

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 Brezsny

Nov. 18-24, 2026

ARIES (March 21–April 19): Our Milky Way Galaxy is unusually calm. It has experienced fewer disruptive collisions than many comparable galaxies. That relative stability helped create conditions favorable for the evolution of complex life. I know you're not naturally drawn to building strong, serene foundations, Aries, but I hope that in the coming months, you will consider exploring the surprisingly creative power of steadiness. Intriguing opportunities will emerge as you familiarize yourself with the mysteries of durability and security. Your consistency will launch adventures that couldn't happen without it.

TAURUS (April 20–May 20): A new sweater may be comfortable and stylish, even though a loose thread is dangling from its cuff. A bouquet of yellow and red roses might be lavish and uplifting despite its three withered petals. Your preparations could be moving along briskly until a collaborator wobbles slightly during a turning point. But please don't interpret minor glitches like these as gloomy omens. The big-picture outlook remains almost absurdly favorable. So, no, a funny-looking monster dancing backward in one of your nightly dreams isn't a sign that you should turn pessimistic. I suspect it means that what's good and true is becoming wilder and freer.

GEMINI (May 21–June 20): I'm daring you to stage a wily confrontation with the fears that have limited your capacity to love. What old restraints prevent you from dropping antiquated taboos and venturing bravely into the mysterious frontiers of desire? The suppressed wisdom of your wild heart is ready to rise up and collaborate with the dormant magic of your wild mind. You have more power than maybe ever before to tap into and explore the secrets of liberated togetherness.

CANCER (June 21–July 22): For Cancerian philosopher Gaston Bachelard, most every house contains "intimate immensities." These are small spaces that serve as gateways to infinity, transporting you to vast imaginative worlds: a quiet attic, a favorite chair, a window overlooking trees, or even a kitchen sink where the sun splashes down. I invite you to seek out and adore gateways like these in the coming days. Extraordinary revelations will visit you in seemingly routine circumstances. Bonus tip: Enchantments will bless you with extra intensity because you're so vividly in love with your everyday life.

LEO (July 23–Aug. 22): Scientists studying sea turtles have found that the hatchlings don't receive detailed instructions about surviving the ocean. Instead, they're born with an innate capacity to orient themselves toward the sea and adapt continuously thereafter. Your emotional intelligence resembles their natural savvy. You don't need an answer to every question before beginning an important conversation, relationship, or creative endeavor. You trust your capacity to learn while moving. During the coming weeks, this talent will be especially useful. Your instincts will always prove wiser than what your anxieties predict.

VIRGO (Aug. 23–Sept. 22): A large share of plants that have yielded prescription medicines comes from tropical rainforests. Might their imperiled habitats contain still-undiscovered botanical remedies? Quite possibly. Yet research indicates that ordinary weeds flourishing in accessible, human-altered settings may be just as valuable medicinally. An ethnopharmacology team found that Highland Maya communities in Chiapas, Mexico, often gather healing plants from disturbed, semi-urban locales. Consider that to be an evocative metaphor for you in the weeks ahead. The most useful treasures may not be hidden in remote sanctuaries of abundance and serenity. They could be nearby instead, intermingled with the habitual disorder, overlooked corners, and everyday clutter you already know.

LIBRA (Sept. 23–Oct. 22): "Grapple with what is hard while it is still manageable," counsels the Chinese book of divination "Tao Te Ching." "Bring a great undertaking to completion through many modest actions." These gems will provide especially apt guidance for you Libras in the coming weeks. Here are three more companion principles: 1. Repair or adjust what needs attention before it fails. 2. If a conflict is unavoidable, initiate it early and in territory where you have the advantage, rather than accepting an overripe clash arranged by an adversary or competitor. 3. Seek out constructive, enlivening trouble before it has the chance to mutate into destructive trouble.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23–Nov. 21): Scorpio scientist Marie Curie studied invisible, powerful forces that transformed everything they touched. She discovered two new elements and became the first person ever to win Nobel Prizes in two different sciences. She worked in obscurity and hardship, often in a freezing shed, drawn ever deeper into the hidden energies of matter. She revolutionized the world. You share her affinity for the potent and the unseen, Scorpio, and in the coming weeks, you will also have uncanny power to perceive and work with what's concealed: buried emotions, secret dynamics, and the charged currents beneath the surface. Go deep, as you do best. Just remember Curie's cautionary gift: Handle powerful energies with respect, including your own.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22–Dec. 21): This horoscope was devised with scientific precision to increase your capacity for improvisation and help you flourish amid surprises. Don't try to decode it through ordinary reasoning, though. Like a Zen koan, it's intended to exercise the intuitive, nonlogical part of your mind and hopefully prepare you for circumstances no one could fully anticipate. Here it is: *Listen for taboo but healing instructions in the hum of a vending machine. Gently kick open a portal that leads to a seemingly tangential but intriguing detour. Feed your doubts a bowl of blueberries and ask them to provide harmony as you sing John Lennon's song "Imagine." When you can't tolerate another minute of doomscrolling, put your shoes on the wrong feet and declare yourself a temporary citizen of elsewhere.*

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22–Jan. 19): Capricorn teacher Natalie Goldberg tells students to tap into their obsessions — or else! One way or another, those high-energy preoccupations will commandeer a lot of your life force, so you're wise to figure out ways to treasure and harness them. I especially recommend you focus on this key riddle in the coming weeks. You will have more motivation and power than usual to convert passionate fixations into raw material for your creative use. Treat them as super fuel.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20–Feb. 18): Who are the people and energies that awaken your reverence? Are there geniuses whose courageous generosity or gift for inspiring others leaves you awed and amazed? Are there artworks of amazing beauty or spectacular scenes in the natural world that make you want to drop to your knees and cry, "Praise be to this amazing life"? Judging from the current astrological omens, I think you will flourish in the coming weeks if you seek the company of such wonders. For an added challenge, devise escapades that rouse you to feel profound devotion and boisterous delight at the same time.

PISCES (Feb. 19–March 20): Imagine yourself walking down a gusty street with a bouquet of just-cut orchids. You plan to bestow them on a person you cherish. Feel the stems in your hands and arms. You must hold them securely enough that they won't blow away, but lightly enough to keep the blossoms unharmed. As a brisk wind rises, you draw the flowers close and shelter them with your body. Do you have that scene vividly in your mind, Pisces? Bring the same blend of steadiness and tenderness to what matters to you most in the weeks ahead. Hold on without squeezing and protect what you love without intruding.

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

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, Nov. 18

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.

Allen Farmers Market - 3-6:30 p.m. Allen Neighborhood Center, 1629 E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing. facebook.com/AllenFarmersMarket.

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 Sue Wittick - Noon-4 p.m. Haslett Library, 1590 Franklin St., Haslett. cadl.org/about/our-locations/haslett.

Classical Theatre Class for Teens and Adults - A deep dive into the history and 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.

Coming in Hot: New Invasive Species to be Aware of - Dr. Shikha Singh will teach us about stiltgrass, mile-a-minute weed, lesser celandine, and other invasive plants that are on the move in lower Michigan. 7-8:30 p.m. Michigan Nature Association, 2310 Science Pkwy., Okemos. wildoneslansing.weebly.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.

Eight Ball Chip Pool Tournaments - Head to Royal Scot's Triple P Bar & Grill every Wednesday and Friday night to join the Eight Ball Chip Pool Tournaments! Players of all skill levels welcome! 6-11 p.m. 4722 W. Grand River Ave., Lansing. royalscot.net.

Emergency Services - 6 p.m. LSW Emergency Services, 7425 Woodbury Road, Laingsburg. laingsburg.us.

"Feeling Blue" Art Exhibition by the Lansing Women Artists Collective - All the works are for sale and are by local women artists. Please check the Robin Theatre website for hours, as they vary. The Robin Theatre, 1105 S. Washington Ave., Lansing. therobintheatre.com.

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.

"The Gondoliers" - MSU Opera Theatre presents Gilbert and Sullivan's beloved operetta "The Gondoliers," a lively tale of romance, mistaken identities, and comic royal intrigue. 7 p.m. Fairchild Theatre, 542 Auditorium Road, East Lansing. music.msu.edu.

Grand River Connection Morning Mingle: Lansing Unwrapped - We've gathered a panel of local experience providers to make the case for gifting differently this season — think soap-making classes, cooking lessons, and zoo animal meet-and-greets. Coffee and light breakfast provided. 9-10:30 a.m. MSUFCU, 311 Abbott Road, East Lansing. eventbrite.com/o/13686566989.

Grant Chats - Stop by for a casual chat and discuss your grant questions and creative ideas with Arts Council membership and program manager Taylor Haslett. 10-11 a.m. Social Sloth Cafe and Catering, 1754 Central Park Drive, Okemos. facebook.com/ArtsCouncilGL.

Group Dance Class: Beginning Cha cha - Learn the lively rhythms, basic footwork, partner connection, turns, and simple combinations that make the cha cha one of the world's most popular social dances. 7-7:50 p.m. Michigan Athletic Club, 2900 Hannah Blvd., East Lansing. Register by calling 517-364-8800. themac.org.

Holiday Wreath Crafting Workshop - Adults, come decorate a beautiful holiday wreath! Registration req. 6-7:30 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. gladl.libcal.com.

Holidays at the Digi-Lab - The holidays are coming up. Drop in to the GLADL Digi-Lab and learn how to digitize your memories and gift them to your loved ones! 5-6 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. gladl.libcal.com.

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.

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

Monthly Craft & Chat - A welcoming arts and crafts gathering for adults. Bring your own craft supplies or make use of the library's coloring materials as you connect with fellow creative individuals. 6-7 p.m. GLADL Wacousta Branch, 9135 W. Herbison Road, Eagle. gladl.libcal.com.

MSA Speakers Night - Join MSU MSA for dinner and an inspiring discussion with Dr. Nasser Karimian on "What It Means to Be Muslim: Faith, Purpose, and Identity." 6:30-9 p.m. MSU Union Ballroom, 49 Abbot Road, East Lansing. eventbrite.com/o/121965649775.

"O Christmas Tea": A British Comedy - Combining British propriety with an unabashed love for the unexpected, London's three-time Impresario Award-winning duo steep an outrageously funny and brilliantly inventive show reminiscent of classic British pantos. 7:30 p.m. Wharton Center, 750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. whartoncenter.com.

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. lapsg.org.

The Poetry Gallery: Suban Nur Cooley - Join Suban Nur Cooley, MSU faculty member and current Lansing poet laureate, for a poetry reading in the galleries of "We Are This Land: Meditations on the Great American Experiment." 7-9 p.m. Broad Art Museum, 547 E. Circle Drive, East Lansing. broadmuseum.msu.edu.

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.

"Rhinoceros" - A small town is besieged by one roaring citizen who becomes a rhinoceros and proceeds to trample on the social order. As more citizens become rhinoceroses, the trampling becomes overwhelming until only one sane man remains, refusing to surrender his identity. 7:30 p.m. Studio 60 Theatre, 542 Auditorium Road, East Lansing. theatre.msu.edu.

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.

Sporcle Live Trivia - Join us at HopCat East Lansing every Wednesday for trivia! 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.



The Knowledge Cypher Summit

6:30-8:30 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 19
4-7 p.m. Friday, Nov. 20
3-5 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 21
Various locations in East Lansing
FREE
eventbrite.com/o/17719520422

Michigan State University's Knowledge Cypher Summit brings together community members to explore how hip-hop can inspire new possibilities in education, research and community partnerships.

The summit kicks off with a launch party Thursday at the Broad Art Museum, featuring a community art installation, opportunities to view the exhibits on display, DJ sets by Ozay Moore and RyNea Soul, dancing, food and networking opportunities. Hip-hop artist, producer and University of South Carolina associate professor Jabari Evans will give a keynote address.

Friday's portion of the summit is focused on hip-hop pedagogy, geared toward current and future educators with an appreciation for the genre. Session leaders include MikeyyAustin, Ozay Moore and RyNea Soul.

The summit wraps up on Saturday with "The Showcase: Beats, Voices & Visions," an immersive production that combines performance, scholarship, storytelling and community celebration to highlight the significance of hip-hop as a source of knowledge creation, healing, creative resistance and collective expression.

Admission to each event is free, but pre-registration is required.

Thursday, Nov. 19

"A Lansing Christmas Adventure" - "A Lansing Christmas Adventure" brings another original Hawlmark production to the Williamston Theatre stage as the long-awaited sequel to "A Very Williamston Christmas." 7:30 p.m. 122 S. Putnam St., Williamston. williamstontheatre.org.

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.

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Silver Bells in the City

5-9 p.m. Friday, Nov. 20
Downtown Lansing
FREE
silverbellsinthecity.com



The Lansing Entertainment and Public Facilities Authority invites community members to kick off the holiday season with Silver Bells in the City, a beloved tradition that draws an average of 40,000 people to the capital city each year.

The main events begin with the Electric Light Parade at 6 p.m., featuring more than 70 entrants, including local dignitaries, 10 high school marching bands and even Santa Claus. After the parade, attendees can head toward the Capitol lawn for the lighting of the state Christmas tree.

Once the tree is lit, Mason native Rebecca Brunner will lead a community sing. Brunner has appeared on "American Idol," "The Voice" and "America's Got Talent," as well as at festivals such as Bonnaroo, Lollapalooza, South by Southwest and Stagecoach.

The night will end with a drone light show set to festive music and a fireworks display.

Throughout the evening, attendees can shop for holiday gifts and purchase snacks from more than 30 vendors in the Silver Bells Village. For more information, including the full schedule of events, a list of vendors and a map of important locations, visit the event website.

Events

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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.

Beginning Ukulele for the Family - You'll learn the basics of the uke, including: parts of the instrument, tuning, beginning chords, and simple songs to get you used to chording and strumming. Four-week class. Registration req. Ages 8+. 6-7 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. gladl.libcal.com.

Book & Zine Swap - Stop by to find a new-to-you zine(s) or book(s). You're encouraged to bring materials to add to the pile, but you're not required to bring something in order to participate. 3-6 p.m. ELFCO, 1605 E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing. elfco.org.

Bookend Gallery Display by Sue Wittick - Noon-6 p.m. Haslett Library, 1590 Franklin St., Haslett. cadl.org/about/our-locations/haslett.

Charlotte Community Library Board Meeting - The board meets the third Thursday of every month in the library's Spartan Room. 6-8 p.m. 226 S. Bostwick St., Charlotte. charlottelibrary.org.

Chipmunk Story Time - Story time comes alive as children interact with puppets Chicory Chipmunk and his animal friends. Stories are followed by nature activities and a guided walk. 10 a.m. Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Road, Okemos. meridian.mi.us/hnc.

Dine & Discovery: Kids Holiday Cooking - Junior chefs and their guardians will cook a classic holiday meal, including mashed potatoes, dressing, salad and more, learning how to work in the kitchen as a team. 6-8 p.m. Allen Neighborhood Center, 1629 E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing. allenneighborhoodcenter.org.

"Feeling Blue" Art Exhibition by the Lansing Women Artists Collective - All the works are for sale and are by local women artists. Please check the Robin Theatre website for hours, as they vary. The Robin Theatre, 1105 S. Washington Ave., Lansing. therobintheatre.com.

Gilbert and Sullivan's "The Gondoliers" - 7 p.m. Fairchild Theatre, 542 Auditorium Road, East Lansing. music.msu.edu.

Group Dance Class: Beginning Nightclub Two-Step - Nightclub two-step is a smooth, romantic social dance for slow to medium pop or country songs. 8-8:50 p.m. Michigan Athletic Club, 2900 Hannah Blvd., East Lansing. Register by calling 517-364-8800. themac.org.

Intelligent Singles Mixer - Meet smart and fun singles looking to connect and have a great time in a chill, relaxed setting! 7-10 p.m. Marriott Hotel, 300 M.A.C. Ave., East Lansing. eventbrite.com/o/75571320993.

Launch Party: The Knowledge Cypher Summit - Join us for an unforgettable evening where art, music, scholarship, and community come together to launch The Knowledge Cypher Summit: Hip-Hop, Pedagogy, and Inclusive Excellence. 6:30-8:30 p.m. Broad Art Museum, 547 E. Circle Drive, East Lansing. broadmuseum.msu.edu.

MBN Speaker Series Fall Sports Business Luncheon - Join us in person for lunch and sports business insights at the MBN speaker series with Lansing Lugnuts general manager Zac Clark! 11 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Capital Region International Airport, 4100 Capital City Blvd., Lansing. eventbrite.com/o/54803577333.

MI ATHENA: Your Voice Matters – Women, Advocacy and the Capitol - Join MI ATHENA for an engaging introduction to advocacy, the legislative process, and how women can effectively make their voices heard. 3:30-6 p.m. State Capitol, 100 N. Capitol Ave., Lansing. eventbrite.com/o/19775084347.

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

Pink Thursday Shop Small Crawl St. Johns - Before the hustle and bustle of Black Friday, we're turning Thursday pink and celebrating the amazing small businesses that make our community special! Grab your friends, bring your holiday shopping lists, and join us for the Pink Thursday Crawl! 4-8 p.m. Downtown St. Johns. facebook.com/NinasNotions-PaperCrafting.

"Rhinoceros" - 7:30 p.m. Studio 60 Theatre, 542 Auditorium Road, East Lansing. theatre.msu.edu.

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.

Senior Planet: Online Shopping - This lecture will provide a general introduction to shopping online. You'll learn about online retailers, how to search for products, make comparisons, and add items to an online shopping cart. 10:30-11:30 a.m. Foster Community Center, 200 N. Foster Ave., Lansing. cadl.org.

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 Centurion Drive, Ste. 120, Lansing. shorahouse.com.

Spirit of Michigan Chorus Rehearsal - We're an inclusive 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. spiritofmichiganchorus.com.

The Springtails and Gerald Ross: Twin Bill - Ann Arbor's Gerald Ross and Lansing's The Springtails will split an evening show at Ben Hassenger's Old Town Cultural Center. Be prepared for a ukulele-based evening of songs and laughter. 7:30 p.m. 408 E. Cesar E. Chavez Ave., Lansing. tenpoundfiddle.org.

TCOA's The Harvest Circle: Roots and Resilience Gala - Enjoy an elegant meal with silent and live auctions, games, and a cash bar in support of programs that honor the dignity and independence of older adults and adults with disabilities in Clinton, Eaton, and Ingham Counties. 5:30-8:30 p.m. Eagle Eye Banquet Center, 15500 Chandler Road, Bath. tcoa.org.

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

Understanding Use of Force: Kingsmen PSC - This workshop gives civilians, security teams, and law enforcement the tools to make fast, legally sound, and ethically informed decisions when force becomes necessary. 6-8 p.m. Capital Area Sportsmen's League, 7534 W. Old River Trail, Lansing. eventbrite.com/o/106028473031.

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

Friday, Nov. 20

"A Lansing Christmas Adventure" - 7:30 p.m. Williamston Theatre, 122 S. Putnam St., Williamston. williamstontheatre.org.

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

Boots on the Ground: Official Michigan Heritage Rodeo Afterparty - Kick back and celebrate after the rodeo with live music, drinks, and good vibes! 9:30 p.m. Royal Scot, 4722 W. Grand River Ave., Lansing. eventbrite.com/o/121805515628.

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.

Eight Ball Chip Pool Tournaments - Head to Royal Scot's Triple P Bar & Grill every Wednesday and Friday night to join the Eight Ball Chip Pool Tournaments! Players of all skill levels welcome! 6-11 p.m. 4722 W. Grand River Ave., Lansing. royalscot.net.

"Feeling Blue" Art Exhibition by the Lansing Women Artists Collective - All the works are for sale and are by local women artists. Please check the Robin Theatre website for hours, as they vary. The Robin Theatre, 1105 S. Washington Ave., Lansing. therobintheatre.com.

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.

Free Intro: Start to Finish Building a Business with AI - Want to build a business from start to finish with the help of artificial intelligence? Join SteadfastIQ's free 40-minute live intro on Zoom, taught by an experienced industry expert. Beginners welcome, no experience needed. 4 p.m. Virtual — register at steadfastiq.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. Participation is covered by general admission to the museum. R.E. Olds Transportation Museum, 240 Museum Drive, Lansing. reoldsmuseum.org.

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CROSSWORD SOLUTION

From Pg. 20

S	H	A	N	B	O	■	D	E	M	I	■	P	U	P
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SUDOKU SOLUTION

From Pg. 20

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

Events

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King for a Day (Four-Hour Daggerheart One-Shot) - Have you wanted to dive into Daggerheart but not known where to start? Look no further! 6-10 p.m. Dungeons & Flagons, 215 S. Washington Square, Ste. B, Lansing. dnf.games.

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

MSU Football vs. Oregon Ducks - 8 p.m. Spartan Stadium, 325 W. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. msuspartans.com/sports/football.

Parkinson's Exercise: Movement with Vitality - 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. lapsg.org.

Portrait Painting Class at Shiawassee Arts Center - A strong focus will be placed on color theory, painting techniques, and anatomy. Students may choose to work in oils or acrylics. 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Fridays through Nov. 20. 206 Curwood Castle Drive, Owosso. shiawasseearts.org.

Quick and Messy Screen Printing on Cloth - Participants will create their own stencil to use with a blank screen and then learn to use their stencil with thickened fiber-reactive dyes, creating unique surface designs on silk and cotton cloth. 5:30-7:30 p.m. REACH Studio Art Center, 1804 S. Washington Ave., Lansing. reachstudioart.org.

Transgender Day Memorial Service - Join us for a time of prayer, remembrance and reflection for our trans friends and family. 6:30 p.m. St. Michael's Episcopal Church, 6500 Amwood Drive, Lansing. facebook.com/St.MichaelsEpiscopalChurch.

Village Crafters Dimondale Holiday Show - We'll have 36 vendors with handmade items ... home & holiday decor, baked goods, skin care, jewelry & more! We offer free refreshments for guests and free kids' crafts with letters to Santa! 9 a.m.-6 p.m. Chief Okemos Sportsman's Club , 4667 N. Gunnell Road, Dimondale. facebook.com/villagecraftersgroup.

Saturday, Nov. 21

"A Lansing Christmas Adventure" - 2 p.m. Williamston Theatre, 122 S. Putnam St., Williamston. williamstontheatre.org.

The Alchemy Guild - An in-person gathering for curious minds to mix ideas, spark connections, and create a little magic. Noon-5 p.m. The Fledge, 1300 Eureka St., Lansing. eventbrite.com/e/the-alchemy-guild-tickets-2004169662411.

The Big Red Ball 2026 - Join us for an evening celebrating the people, places, and ideas making Michigan's Downtown the place to be. 7-10 p.m. Michigan History Center, 702 W. Kalamazoo St., Lansing. downtownlansing.org.

Bookend Gallery Display by Sue Wittick - Noon-2 p.m. Haslett Library, 1590 Franklin St., Haslett. cadl.org/about/our-locations/haslett.

Boots & Beats: Official Michigan Heritage Rodeo Afterparty - Kick back and celebrate after the rodeo with live music, drinks, and good vibes! 9:30 p.m. Royal Scot, 4722 W. Grand River Ave., Lansing. eventbrite.com/o/121805515628.

CheerAbilities Fundraiser - We are a competitive cheerleading team of athletes with disabilities! This year we're working hard to prepare for the prestigious All Star Worlds competition in Florida. We invite you to join us for a fun community fundraiser at our home gym, REACH Athletics. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. 5160 W. Saginaw Hwy., Lansing. m.e.tracy11@gmail.com.

Coach's 2nd Annual Buck Pole - Join us for a full day of live music, barbecue, deer on the pole, and fun with friends and family. 10 a.m.-11:30 p.m. Coach's Pub and Grill, 6201 Bishop Road, Lansing. facebook.com/CoachsPubandGrill.

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: Michael Hamilton. Band: Slumberjack Radio. Central United Methodist Church, 215 N. Capitol Ave., Lansing. tenpoundfiddle.org.

Critters and the Cold - Bring your family and friends to Harris Nature Center to learn what animals are doing to prepare for winter. Enjoy time with HNC's resident animals and a guided walk in the autumn woods. 3-4:30 p.m. 3998 Van Atta Road, Okemos. meridian.mi.us/hnc.

Dine-In or Carryout Sauerkraut Dinner and Dance - Dinner is served from 5-6:30 p.m. and consists of sauerkraut, roast pork, mashed potatoes and gravy, green beans, spatzle, apple sauce, bread and butter, and dessert. Music and dancing starts at 6. Lansing Liederkranz Club, 5828 S. Pennsylvania Ave., Lansing. facebook.com/LansingLiederkranzClub.

Downtown EL Tree Lighting - Come spend the evening downtown with us! We'll have a live performance by Capital Green, free hot cocoa, coffee and treats, and our free holiday ornament giveaway is back with a brand-new design! 5-7 p.m. Downtown East Lansing. cityofeastlansing.com.

"Feeling Blue" Art Exhibition by the Lansing Women Artists Collective - All the works are for sale and are by local women artists. Please check the Robin Theatre website for hours, as they vary. The Robin Theatre, 1105 S. Washington Ave., Lansing. therobintheatre.com.

Free Intro: Start to Finish Building a Business with AI - 4 p.m. Virtual — register at steadfastiq.com.

Gilbert and Sullivan's "The Gondoliers" - 7 p.m. Fairchild Theatre, 542 Auditorium Road, East Lansing. music.msu.edu.

How-To Holiday - Get ready for the holidays by making your own custom handmade pieces while supporting your local makerspace! A DIY wonderland! Noon-6 p.m. Lansing Makers Network, 2730 Alpha Access St., Lansing. eventbrite.com/o/5307332073.

Lansing Queer Almanac - Volunteers sought for collaborative local history zine project. Meetings are free and open to the public. 11 a.m.-noon. Virtual — register by emailing vacaafrank@gmail.com with the subject line "LGBTQ Zine."

Luck of the Draw Steel-Tip Darts Tournament - Details: Blind draw format, players of all levels are welcome, $12 entry fee per person, no pre-registration required. 6 p.m. Royal Scot, 4722 W. Grand River Ave., Lansing. royalscot.net.

Meridian Township Farmers Market - 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Marketplace on the Green, 1995 Central Park Drive, Okemos. meridian.mi.us/recreation-leisure/farmers-market.

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

MSU Men's Basketball vs. Detroit Mercy Titans - Noon. Breslin Center, 534 Birch Road, East Lansing. msuspartans.com/sports/mens-basketball.

MSU Bug House: 6 Legged Saturdays - A free opportunity for families to visit the MSU Bug House. 10 a.m.-1 p.m. 288 Farm Lane, East Lansing. canr.msu.edu/ent.

Quick and Messy Screen Printing on Cloth - Cloth will "cure" overnight at REACH and be ready for rinsing and pick-up during the Saturday morning dye lab. 1-4 p.m. 1804 S. Washington Ave., Lansing. reachstudioart.org.

"Rhinoceros" - 7:30 p.m. Studio 60 Theatre, 542 Auditorium Road, East Lansing. theatre.msu.edu.

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. Participation is covered by general admission to the museum. R.E. Olds Transportation Museum, 240 Museum Drive, Lansing. reoldsmuseum.org.

Thanksgiving Centerpiece Workshop - Join us for a make-and-take Thanksgiving centerpiece class, just in time for the holiday! 1-2 p.m. Van Atta's Greenhouse & Flower Shop, 9008 Old M-78, Bath. vanattas.com.

Turning Path Tarot Level III: From the Runes to the Stars - Every card in the tarot is a kaleidoscope. Turn it and the pieces shift: a rune, an element, the cards beside it, a planet playing a part in a sign, a slice of the year. Each layer echoes the others at a different scale, like a fractal, and Turning Path Tarot Level III puts the deepest ones at your mental and psychic fingertips. 3-4:30 p.m. Keys to Manifestation, 809 Center St., Lansing. manifestlansing.com.

Village Crafters Dimondale Holiday Show - 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Chief Okemos Sportsman's Club , 4667 N. Gunnell Road, Dimondale. facebook.com/villagecraftersgroup.

When I Grow Up! Career Exploration Series: Engineering Careers - Kids and families will meet real professionals, explore hands-on activities, and take home an activity to see how their interests can turn into future careers. 9:30 a.m.-5 p.m. Impression 5 Science Center, 200 Museum Drive, Lansing. facebook.com/impression5.

Wonderland of Lights - Stroll along illuminated paths, enjoy festive music, and soak in the magic of the holiday season at Potter Park Zoo! 5-8 p.m. Potter Park Zoo, 1301 S. Pennsylvania Ave, Lansing. potterparkzoo.org.

Sunday, Nov. 22

"A Lansing Christmas Adventure" - 2 p.m. Williamston Theatre, 122 S. Putnam St., Williamston. williamstontheatre.org.

Copper Chimney Poetry Series - Poets Eder De La Cruz and Guillermo Delgado will step into the spotlight at this month's Copper Chimney event. An open mic will follow the featured poets. 4-6 p.m. University United Methodist Church, 1120 S. Harrison Road, East Lansing. facebook.com/LansingPoetryClub.

"Feeling Blue" Art Exhibition by the Lansing Women Artists Collective - All the works are for sale and are by local women artists. Please check the Robin Theatre website for hours, as they vary. The Robin Theatre, 1105 S. Washington Ave., Lansing. therobintheatre.com.

Gilbert and Sullivan's "The Gondoliers" - 3 p.m. Fairchild Theatre, 542 Auditorium Road, East Lansing. music.msu.edu.

Holiday Market - Welcome to our farmers market! We're hosting two special holiday markets in the comfort of the Williamston Area Senior Center. Come shop for gifts and all you need for your Thanksgiving and holiday feasts. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. 500 Williamston Center Road, Williamston. facebook.com/WilliamstonFarmandArtisanMarket.

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. MICA, 1210 Turner St., Lansing. micharts.org.

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.

Revive Wellness Open House - Come meet the team at Revive Wellness! Join us for an afternoon of free wellness, good company, and a proper introduction to everything we do here. 1-5 p.m. 2940 E. Lake Lansing Road, East Lansing. revivewellness517.com.

"Rhinoceros" - 2 and 7:30 p.m. Studio 60 Theatre, 542 Auditorium Road, East Lansing. theatre.msu.edu.

Trans Lives Matter Talent Showcase - A showcase for some of the giant pool of phenomenally talented trans artists out there in the world. Come out and support. 8-11 p.m. The Fledge, 1300 Eureka St., Lansing. eventbrite.com/o/112152241431.

Wonderland of Lights - 5-8 p.m. Potter Park Zoo, 1301 S. Pennsylvania Ave, Lansing. potterparkzoo.org.

See Events, Page 24

'Rhinoceros'

Nov. 18-22
7:30 p.m. Wednesday-Thursday, Saturday-Sunday
2 p.m. Sunday
Studio 60 Theatre
542 Auditorium Road, East Lansing
whartoncenter.com



Michigan State University's Department of Theatre continues its season with the bizarre, satirical play "Rhinoceros," by Eugene Ionesco.

Co-directed by master of fine arts candidates Andrew Keller and Nick Torres, the show follows the citizens of a small town as they gradually turn into giant and loud rhinoceroses. However strange it may be, the townspeople begin to accept their transformations and start to assimilate, leaving one man, Berenger, refusing to relinquish his identity.

The play is part of the Department of Theatre's Storefront Series. Inspired by Chicago's storefront theaters, the productions challenge student performers and creative teams to work with limited resources and short rehearsal periods.

General admission tickets start at $28.50, with student and youth tickets available for $13.50.

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For more info go to www.hhmobil.com
CP#26-417

Events

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Monday, Nov. 23

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.

Auditions: "Hir," by Taylor Mac - Auditions will consist of cold readings from the script. Everyone is welcome to audition. 6-9 p.m. LCC black box theater, 411 N. Grand Ave., Lansing. lcc.edu/showinfo.

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

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.

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.

Euchre - 1-3 p.m. Eaton Rapids Senior Center, 201 Grand St., Eaton Rapids. facebook.com/EatonRapidsSeniorCenter.

"Feeling Blue" Art Exhibition by the Lansing Women Artists Collective - All the works are for sale and are by local women artists. Please check the Robin Theatre website for hours, as they vary. The Robin Theatre, 1105 S. Washington Ave., Lansing. therobintheatre.com.

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.

Laughs Without Limits: Dinner and a Show Fundraiser - ASPPIRE is excited to welcome Michigan's family funnyman, Joel Tacey, for an evening of laughter, great food, and fun! 6-8 p.m. Tony M's Restaurant, 3420 S. Creyts Road, Lansing. asppire.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.

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.

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.

Tuesday, Nov. 24

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.

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.

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

Drop-In Indoor Golf League Tuesdays - Want to join an indoor league but don't want the weekly commitment? The Tuesday Drop-In League is perfect for you! No need to register, just show up! 6-9 p.m. Royal Scot, 4722 W. Grand River Ave., Lansing. royalscot.net.

Family Movement Group - This is a parent-child therapeutic movement group designed to support healthy regulation and strengthen family connection through shared movement experiences. 5:30-6:30 p.m. Shora House, 6639 Centurion Drive, Lansing. shorahouse.com.

"Feeling Blue" Art Exhibition by the Lansing Women Artists Collective - All the works are for sale and are by local women artists. Please check the Robin Theatre website for hours, as they vary. The Robin Theatre, 1105 S. Washington Ave., Lansing. therobintheatre.com.

Gather and Grind Ribbon Cutting - We're excited to welcome Gather and Grind to the area! Join us in celebrating their official opening, tour the new coffee shop, and see how this local space is bringing our community together. 4:30 p.m. 1060 Jackson St., Dansville. facebook.com/masonchamber.

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.

Karaoke - Grab the mic from 8 to 10 p.m. and enjoy $7 signature cocktails, $7 craft beer pints, a $7 Southern peach mocktail, a $12 chicken-bacon flatbread and a $6 cheese quesadilla. One North Kitchen & Bar, 1310 Abbot Road, East Lansing. onenorthdining.com.

Open Mic & Karaoke at Summerlands Brewing Co. - 7-10 p.m. 1957 Cedar St., Holt. facebook.com/summerlandsbrewing.

Open Swim Improv Comedy - Anyone in the community can come to participate in improv comedy games, or just sit in the audience, suggest prompts, and watch the silliness unfold! The event is free for your first visit and $20 annually after that. 7-9 p.m. Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Drive, Lansing. riverwalktheatre.com/barebones.html.

Parkinson's Exercise: Balance, Conditioning and Strength - 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.

The Poetry Room Open Mic Presents: Gov't Shutdown (Emotionally) - Whether you're a seasoned poet or stepping onto the stage for the first time, this is your platform to share your words with a supportive audience. Theme: political. 7:30-9 p.m. The Robin Theatre, 1105 S. Washington Ave., Lansing. facebook.com/The517PoetryRoom.

Story Hour - Participants will enjoy activities including stories, songs, rhymes, guided play, and crafts. Adults leave their children at the program after signing them in, but they must remain in the library building. Ages 3-6. 10-11 a.m. Charlotte Community Library, 226 S. Bostwick St., Charlotte. charlottelibrary.org.

Trivia at Lansing Shuffle - 7:30-9 p.m. 325 Riverfront Drive, Lansing. 517-940-4365. lansingshuffle.com.

Wednesday, Nov. 25

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.

Allen Farmers Market - 3-6:30 p.m. Allen Neighborhood Center, 1629 E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing. facebook.com/AllenFarmersMarket.

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 Sue Wittick - Noon-4 p.m. Haslett Library, 1590 Franklin St., Haslett. cadl.org/about/our-locations/haslett.

Classical Theatre Class for Teens and Adults - A deep dive into the history and 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.

Eight Ball Chip Pool Tournaments - Head to Royal Scot's Triple P Bar & Grill every Wednesday and Friday night to join the Eight Ball Chip Pool Tournaments! Players of all skill levels welcome! 6-11 p.m. 4722 W. Grand River Ave., Lansing. royalscot.net.

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.

"Feeling Blue" Art Exhibition by the Lansing Women Artists Collective - All the works are for sale and are by local women artists. Please check the Robin Theatre website for hours, as they vary. The Robin Theatre, 1105 S. Washington Ave., Lansing. therobintheatre.com.

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.

Group Dance Class: Beginning Cha cha - Learn the lively rhythms, basic footwork, partner connection, turns, and simple combinations that make the cha cha one of the world's most popular social dances. 7-7:50 p.m. Michigan Athletic Club, 2900 Hannah Blvd., East Lansing. Register by calling 517-364-8800. themac.org.

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FOOD & DRINK

DINING OUT IN GREATER LANSING

Assembly adds to the charm of downtown Mason



Lawrence

By GABRIELLE LAWRENCE

A girlfriend of mine recently asked me what the main storyline would be if I wrote the story of my life. I told her one of the themes would be that I chose to stay in my hometown.

Many people who I have known since childhood have moved away, some to different areas of Michigan but many to different states. Although I lived overseas in my 20s and briefly bounced around Southeast Michigan, Mr. She Ate and I have made Lansing our home. That very conscious choice has affected so many parts of my life, from how I spend my non-working hours to the opportunities that I will pursue for my own children to how I talk about my city to other people. This column is a natural extension of that.

Pre-pandemic, my reviews were sometimes much more harsh than what is now printed. I didn't ever relish bashing a local restaurant, but now I pay a lot more attention to the power that my words have. That's not to suggest that I don't offer criticism when it is warranted, but as an example of how this column has evolved, a few weeks ago B (known to many of you as "He Ate") and I pulled the plug on reviewing a newish spot because my experience there was so awful. I don't feel the need to pile on, and I will instead work doubly hard to promote other places that are earning it.

Since becoming a county commissioner four years ago, I've driven to downtown Mason a few times a month for board of commissioners meetings. Frequently, I will grab a slice of pizza, a sandwich or a salad at Westside Deli, which is both nostalgic for me and also reliably delicious. However, I've been dreaming about a very niche place I want to see in Mason. It's just about the most picturesque, cozy town on Earth, and I want to sit and dig into a hearty lunch or dinner on a snowy day, watching the shoppers rush home with their treasures.

And readers, Assembly is here to do this for us.

Mr. She Ate and I got an early-bird Saturday-night babysitter in the form of my trusty and generous dad and headed to Assembly for dinner. We were surprised but charmed by the intimacy of the small restaurant and immediately got good vibes from our server, who was attentive and intuitive but not overbearing.

We started with blistered Brussels sprouts ($12) and whipped ricotta ($12) appetizers. The Brussels were pleasantly salty and topped with pickled shallot, which is a combination I had never considered but one that worked perfectly. The whipped ricotta was spread thick on a slice of toasted sourdough, then sprinkled with lemon zest, chili oil and chopped pistachios. The flavors were spot on. I particularly appreciated that the toast was sliced into fingers, which made inhaling the dish much easier.

Mr. She Ate and I decided to order the fish and chips ($19) and steak frites ($35) to share. The portion of fish was huge, and we took a good half of it home, to be inadvertently stuck in the back of our fridge and never heard from again. Isn't that just the way of things sometimes? The batter was slightly sweet, which I liked. The steak was perfectly

See She Ate, Page 26



Assembly
402 S. Jefferson St., Mason
11 a.m.-9 p.m. Monday-Thursday
11 a.m.-11 p.m. Friday-Saturday
10 a.m.-9 p.m. Sunday
(517) 604-6070
assemblymason.com


Bryan Beverly for City Pulse

Mason's Assembly is quickly becoming known for its fish and chips, which both She Ate/He Ate reviewers thoroughly enjoyed.



Beverly

By BRYAN BEVERLY

Mason seems to have more than its share of culinary destinations, and every now and then, a new restaurant comes along that gives you yet another reason to make the trip downtown. Such is the case with Assembly, the latest venture from Greater Lansing restaurateur Matt Gillett. A little bit gastropub and a little bit neighborhood gathering place, it's a welcome addition to a small town with a growing culinary identity.

Assembly has a new American aesthetic that strikes a nice balance between old-school character and contemporary style. Exposed brick provides a sense of history and warmth, while modern fixtures, thoughtfully selected finishes and distinctive lighting give the space a more polished, metropolitan feel. It's comfortable without being overly casual and stylish without trying too hard.

The location is another part of the appeal. A short distance from the Ingham County Courthouse and government complex, Assembly has the potential to become a regular stop for courthouse visitors, county employees, local professionals and residents alike.

And then there's Gillett, who's never been content to simply repeat a successful formula. With Saddleback BBQ, Slice by Saddleback and Coach's Pub & Grill, he has demonstrated a willingness to explore different concepts and give each one its own identity.

What makes Gillett's continued expansion particularly noteworthy is that his involvement in the community extends beyond opening restaurant doors. He recognizes that local business owners play a role in creating spaces where people gather, connect and invest in the places they call home. His decision to bring Assembly to Mason feels consistent with that philosophy. It's an investment in a downtown that deserves attention and a restaurant that can contribute to the city's continued momentum.

What's decent

A colleague and I stopped into Assembly on a brisk afternoon for a late lunch. George, our server, was friendly and eager to discuss the menu. He recommended some starters, and we settled on the confit garlic arancini ($11), the pork belly ($13) and the whipped ricotta ($12) before catching up on professional and personal matters.

The arancini is not for the weak of palate (or those who don't carry mints). The deep-fried risotto balls were stuffed with parmesan cheese and plenty of garlic. My first bite, while satisfyingly crispy on the outside and silky on the inside, almost took my breath away with its bitter pungency, and the accompanying aioli was a creamy excess of garlic.

The whipped ricotta was equally up and down, with the creamy cheese providing a velvety, sweet indulgence and the pistachios and chili oil providing a balance of textures and flavors. However, the "toasted" sourdough was anything but as it wilted underneath.

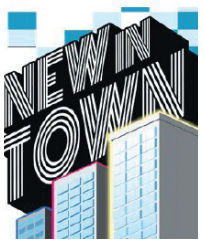
What's better

The mushroom risotto ($22) presented well. Both the plating and the cook of the grains were spot on.

See He Ate, Page 26

Good Truckin' parks at former REO Town location

By LIEZA KLEMM



Good Truckin' REO Bites

1107 S. Washington Ave., Lansing
11 a.m.–7 p.m. Tuesday–Friday
9 a.m.–3 p.m. Saturday–Saturday
(517) 489-2070

After months of anticipation, the once-empty storefront at 1107 S. Washington Ave. in REO Town is once again serving up the eclectic menu locals missed — Good Truckin' is back.

Good Truckin' REO Bites is a smaller, grab-and-go version of the Good Truckin' Diner in Old Town. It is located in the same space the diner occupied before its move to Old Town almost two years ago.

When Good Truckin' moved into a larger location at the end of 2024, REO Bites was intended to open shortly after.

"We were doing our best to get it open," co-owner Nora Gorman said. "We would work on it for two weeks solid, and then stuff would come up with other restaurants."

Gorman runs Good Truckin' REO Bites with business partner Nick Sinicropi. While getting the restaurant open took longer than expected, she said the response from locals "has been amazing."

The setup and menu are "completely different" from the diner in Old Town, Gorman said. Designed as a to-go eatery, menu items are mostly served in baskets with minimal silverware.

"It's a lot of handheld items," she said.

As far as seating goes, there are four tabletops and three bar stools inside the eatery. Outdoor patio seating is also available.

A grab-and-go menu was not the original idea. According to Gorman, the plan was to serve pastries and ice cream.

However, "Pastries are tough if they don't sell," Gorman said. "You have to throw them away."

The owners pivoted and developed a new menu while still honoring the initial vision.

"We had the sandwich and ice cream idea in our heads, and then we said, 'Well, we probably shouldn't only do sandwiches because it doesn't leave a lot of room for people to have different options," Gorman said.

So, naturally, they added tacos and hot dogs to the list.

These aren't your standard, run-of-the-mill handhelds. For example, there's the "Pasketti" taco, which includes spaghetti, meatballs, marinara and mozzarella cheese, and the "Low Country" hot dog, topped with bacon jam, pimento cheese and candied jalapeños.

Inspiration for the inventive offerings came from the very first menu Good Truckin' offered over a decade ago.

"(It) was already kind of wacky to begin with," Gorman said. "It's just gotten more creative over the years."

Other menu items include soft serve ice cream, coffee, breakfast sandwiches and a rotating list of pastries. Special attention was paid to patrons with dietary restrictions, especially vegetarians and vegans. As it stands, the shop has vegan meatballs, hot dogs, bacon, turkey and cheese. Almost all of the sauces are vegan, too.

"We look around Lansing, and options are very limited," Gorman said. She and Sinicropi are both vegan. "We want to be inclusive to all diets and all price ranges as much as we can."



Lieza Klemm/City Pulse

Good Truckin' REO Bites recently opened in the same space the diner occupied before its move to Old Town almost two years ago.



She Ate

from page 25

(and I mean perfectly) cooked to my requested medium rare. I did have to dig into my ever-present supply of sea salt that I keep in a tin in my purse in order to add a bit more to the dish, but that was more due to personal preference.

We didn't love the fries. They weren't well seasoned, and the presentation could use some retooling. They were served underneath the steak in a pool of jus, which left them soggy and unappetizing. I would prefer them to be served in the French bistro style, shockingly crispy and piled high next to the steak.

I chose our dessert methodically, eschewing the delicious Mr. Leslie's Cheesecake for something housemade in order to test Assembly's chops further. I already know that I love Mr. Leslie's extraordinary cheesecakes, so we asked for the crème brûlée ($10).

To be fair, I'm not generally dazzled by crème brûlée. It's vanilla custard. I'm all for a classic, but give me something with some character. However, Assembly's version had a depth of lusciousness that I wasn't expecting, and I have no notes other than "would order again."

In ancillary but crowd-pleasing news, Mr. She Ate was pleasantly surprised by the reasonable drink prices. His chosen beer was $5, and because of that, he had two of them. We were home by 7:30, glowing in the aftermath of a wonderful experience at a new local restaurant, and were able to put the kids to bed on time.

He Ate

from page 25

The cremini and shiitake mushrooms were just firm enough, and the fried onion crisps offered a nice crunch. Yet it took multiple dashes of table salt to provide any flavor. The dish was a bit flat without it.

The fish and chips ($19) were much better. Two massive pollock fillets crisscrossed over a bed of hand-cut french fries. The housemade tartar sauce was delightful, and the fish was tender and flaky, with a perfectly crunchy exterior.

Best bite

Earlier, I mentioned the pork belly starter, which is a winning dish. Chunks of pork belly slathered in a sweet barbecue sauce and dusted with chopped pistachios sat atop a puree of root vegetables mixed with stone fruit. This combination of sweet, smoky and bright is what pushing the envelope is all about.

Holiday baking can go beyond cookies



Metro Creative Connection

From METRO CREATIVE CONNECTION

Baked goods and the holiday season go hand in hand. Many families incorporate baking into their holiday traditions. There's no limit to the treats that can be baked come the holiday season, but families who want to offer something less traditional can try this recipe for pecan brownies with icing sugar from Lines+Angles.

Pecan brownies with icing sugar

12 ounces plain dark chocolate, 70% cocoa solids
9 ounces butter
Three large eggs
9 ounces dark brown sugar
2 ounces flour
1 teaspoon baking powder
5 ounces chopped pecans

To decorate:
Icing sugar

1. Heat the oven to 325 degrees. Grease a 7-by-11-inch baking dish and line the base with non-stick baking paper.
2. Put the chocolate and butter in a pan and heat gently, stirring until melted. Allow to cool slightly.
3. Whisk the eggs in a mixing bowl until pale and frothy, then add the sugar a spoonful at a time, whisking until thick and glossy.
4. Gently fold in the melted chocolate mixture. Sift in the flour and baking powder and fold in the pecans.
5. Spoon the mixture into the baking dish, level with the back of a spoon and bake for 40 minutes, until the top has a cracked appearance and the center is still a little soft to the touch. Do not overbake, or you will lose the famous sticky brownie texture. Cool in the pan.
6. Cut into slices and sift over a little icing sugar.

TOP 5 DINING GUIDE
THE BEST RESTAURANTS IN GREATER LANSING AS DECIDED BY CITY PULSE AND WKAR VOTERS

TOP 5 BAKLAVA

Based on your votes in WKAR and City Pulse's 2026 Top of the Town contest. Bon appétit!

1. Aladdin's Restaurant
Middle Eastern restaurant with a lengthy menu of vegetarian and meat-based dishes
300 N. Clippert St., Lansing
(517) 333-8710
lansingaladdins.com
10 a.m.-9 p.m. Monday-Saturday
10 a.m.-8 p.m. Sunday

2. Bread Bites Mediterranean
Family-owned Mediterranean eatery known for its homemade bread and baked goods
5100 Marsh Road, Okemos
(517) 708-7112
breadbitesokemos.com
11:30 a.m.-8 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday
Noon-7 p.m. Sunday

3. Jerusalem Bakery
Cozy Mediterranean restaurant and bakery serving fresh-made bites for lunch and dinner
1456 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing
(517) 485-9975
facebook.com/jerusalempitaandmore
9 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday-Friday
9 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturday

4. Stateside Deli
Welcoming deli serving signature Reuben sandwiches and all-day breakfast
3552 Meridian Crossing Dr, Okemos
(517) 853-1100
statesidedeli.com
8 a.m.-4 p.m. daily

5. Woody's Oasis
Quick-serve Mediterranean restaurant offering familiar eats such as falafel, gyros and shawarma
1050 Trowbridge Road, East Lansing
(517) 351-2280
woodysoasis.com
11 a.m.-8 p.m. daily



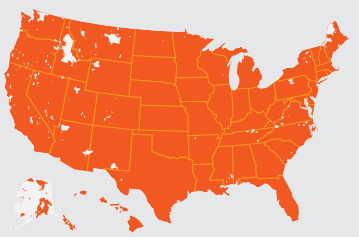
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