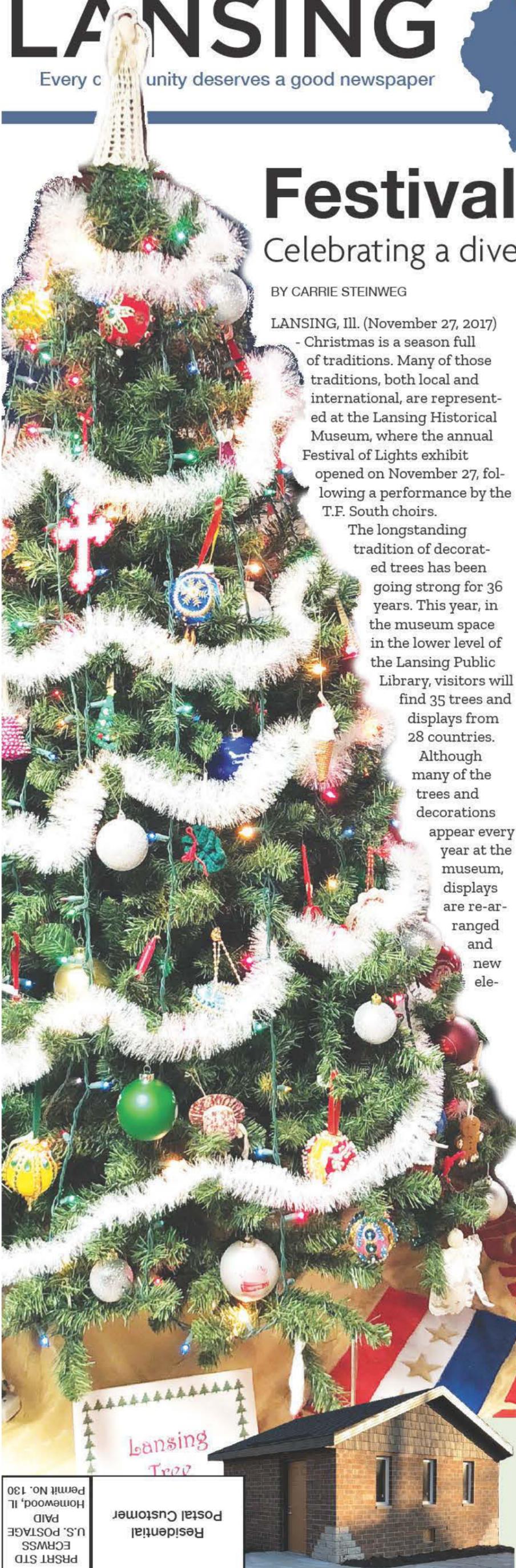


# THE LANSING JOURNAL

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## Festival of Lights opens

### Celebrating a diversity of Christmas traditions

BY CARRIE STEINWEG

LANSING, Ill. (November 27, 2017) - Christmas is a season full of traditions. Many of those traditions, both local and international, are represented at the Lansing Historical Museum, where the annual Festival of Lights exhibit opened on November 27, following a performance by the T.F. South choirs.

The longstanding tradition of decorated trees has been going strong for 36 years. This year, in the museum space in the lower level of the Lansing Public Library, visitors will find 35 trees and displays from 28 countries. Although many of the trees and decorations appear every year at the museum, displays are re-arranged and new elements

are added for each season. This year there is a theme of "Christmas Visitors." Museum Curator, Barbara Dust, encourages visitors to come in and learn how different countries are visited by Santa, Le Befana, the Tomte, Nisse, the Three Kings, and others.

#### RIGHT HERE IN LANSING

The exhibit is often compared to the Christmas Around the World exhibit at Chicago's Museum of Science and Industry. While Lansing's version doesn't have quite as many trees and is smaller in scale, it offers a comprehensive look at how Christmas celebrations take place around the globe—with no admission fee and easily accessible parking.

"Why go to Chicago when we've got this all right here?" asked Nancy Karegianes of Lansing, who attended the opening with her daughter, Maria. Being of Greek descent, they were very interested in seeing the tree decorated for Greece. The mother and daughter had been to the museum see the trees in the past, but it had been several years since their last visit. "I've had this

planned for two months and had it on the calendar to come tonight," she said at the exhibit's opening.

#### STILL EDUCATING

Dust, a retired teacher, is still using her time to educate. Most of the trees include placards with explanations on traditions of that country. The Festival of Lights is the place to go not only to see trees, but also to learn about customs. "Here you get up closer to examine ornaments and see artifacts from



Nancy Karegianes and her daughter, Maria, both of Lansing, beside the Greece Tree. (Photo: Carrie Steinweg)

See "Festival" continued on page 4

## Santa House ready for visitors

BY KATIE ARVIA

LANSING, Ill. (December 2017) - Since 1962 the Santa House has been an annual tradition for many Lansing residents, including Mayor Patty Eidam. "When I moved here in June of 1979," she said, "I was a single mom with two kids that were 8 and 9 at the time. Our very first Christmas, we went to the Santa House." Those memories and

that sense of tradition led Eidam to make the Santa House part of her campaign platform in 2016, and she has made it a priority since taking office in April. "We began to plan and realize that this might be something that we could do in the very first year. To bring some smiles back, to bring back an old tradition."

Lansing's original Santa House was a portable wood structure, but Santa was given a permanent home in 1975 in the parking lot of

See "Santa," continued on page 5

### SANTA'S SANTA HOUSE SCHEDULE:

Santa Claus will make regular appearances at the Santa House throughout December. His schedule includes:

- Wednesdays (December 6, 13, 20): 6:00-8:00pm
- Fridays (December 8, 15, 22): 6:00-8:00pm
- Saturdays (December 9, 16, 23): 1:00-3:00pm

For more information about Santa House protocol, call 708-895-7208.

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# Visible Music College Chicago continues

BY CARRIE STEINWEG

LANSING, Ill. (November 2017) - In 2014, Visible Music College came to Lansing, opening their second campus. The college was created by Ken Steorts with a first location in downtown Memphis. Visible has since opened a campus in Dallas with plans for further expansion in other corners of the U.S.

The Christian-centered music school offers degree programs in Modern Music, Music Production, and Music Business. With small classes and staff-to-student ratio, the programs can be highly individualized. "We currently serve over 160 students across all of our teaching locations—primarily undergraduates working on their Bachelor's degree—but that number also includes about a dozen or so working towards a Master's of Arts in

Leadership we have recently begun, as well as about a dozen students working on a one-year certificate program," said Cameron Harvey, Ph.D., Vice President of Academics.

This past spring the college graduated three individuals who had been transfer students. In 2018 the first students will graduate who started at the Lansing campus.

## PERFORMANCE PRACTICE

Students put in time performing as part of their education. "Our students serve as musicians for churches, we provide public concerts regularly, and we host open mic nights for community artists to perform at," said Harvey.

The college is located at 3404 Lake Street, just north of Ridge Road, in a building that dates back to the late 1800s and has served as village hall, courthouse, police station, and

firehouse. The building's old jail cells became storage areas, and the old apparatus floor of the fire station is now a stage and performance area where the garage door is raised when the weather is mild, creating an open, inviting space.

On that stage, the school hosts a range of concerts most Fridays during the fall and spring semesters. Those concerts are open to the public. "Some Friday nights are student performances, which include a range of genres of music, including pop, rock, funk, blues and gospel," said Harvey. "We also do Worship Nights where students lead a time of worship music open to anyone. Finally, we do Open Mic Nights about once per month where anyone in the community can perform."

## LOCAL STUDENTS

Kristian Black, a student at Visible Music College Chicago, said he was intrigued by the school when it opened just a couple blocks from his home. "It's a great environment to build your craft," he said. "The staff is great and helpful. The students are welcoming, and there's never a lack of opportunities to learn."

Black said he has made valuable connections through the professional development and lecture series. "There's also a lot of hands-on experience, which I think is necessary for learning anything regarding music." He also appreciates the overall experience of being surrounded by other creative artists and having access to a recording studio.

Those sentiments were echoed by student Lacy Blonn who has lived in

Visible staff members Cameron Harvey (left) and Curtis Hunt enjoy one of the public concerts held in the Visible building, which used to be a fire station. (Photo: Carrie Steinweg)



## Thank you!

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These fine people made contributions during November 2017:

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Georgia and Dan Stamper

### HONORARY REPORTERS

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# to educate, entertain in Lansing

Lansing most of her life. "I've always been involved with music, ever since beginning band with Mr. Allie at Memorial Junior High School. So, when Visible came to Lansing, I felt a call to pursue my passion in life—worship leading. It was a great decision," she said. Blonn cites Visible's three-fold focus: developing talent, growing in faith, and becoming productive professional—as key to helping her achieve success in her career as well as her personal life and community involvement.

## PART OF THE COMMUNITY

Harvey is pleased at how the college has become part of the Lansing community. "Our students and staff use the local shops and restaurants in downtown Lansing,"

he said. "We have studio recording services available to local musicians and our students. We encourage the arts in our community. We put on an annual Christmas show for all denominations and the public. We bring touring musicians and speakers into Lansing. We are able to provide a connection for Lansing to the wider higher ed market of Chicago."

That annual Christmas show took place this past Sunday at Living Word Church.

Visit [visible.edu](http://visible.edu) for more information on the college and follow Visible Music College and Visible Live Chicago on Facebook for updates on concert dates and clips from performances.



This year's Visible Christmas concert at Living Word Church included performances by students Lacy Blonn (blue guitar), Myles Brooks (drums), Grant Allison (vocals), Josie VanDrunen (acoustic guitar), and Kellen Ivanuck (brown guitar). (Photo: Carrie Steinweg)

## GUS BOCK'S ACE HARDWARE

# Still a family business

BY ASHLEE DE WIT

*Editor's note: This is the first in what we hope will be a series of articles featuring businesses that have at least a 50-year history in Lansing. To submit a local business for consideration, email [info@thelansingjournal.com](mailto:info@thelansingjournal.com).*

## BEGINNINGS: THE BOCK FAMILY SETTLES IN LANSING

Gus Bock's story starts with his family, one of the first to settle in the area. Henry Bock, an immigrant from Germany, moved here in the early 1870s—two decades before the town of Lansing was incorporated. He opened a blacksmith shop on Torrence Avenue, in what was then Oak Glen.

Later, he set up his sons, Henry, Jr., and Gustav (Gus), with the Henry Bock & Sons Hardware and Supplies Shop, located across the street. This first "Bock Hardware" is where Gus learned the business, starting at age 16. For Gus, it wasn't enough to learn on the job at the hardware store—he also enrolled himself in the Chicago Business College in order to gain additional business knowledge.

The two brothers didn't always see eye-to-eye, and eventually Henry Bock, Jr., took over the family hardware store. But Gus wasn't out of the business for long.

## THROUGH THE YEARS: GUSTAV BOCK, INC. TO GUS BOCK'S HARDWARE

In 1935, Gus opened his own hardware store, Gustav Bock, Inc., in its current Lansing location. The building was then owned by the Schultz family, who offered him space in their Ridge Road grocery store.

According to ads placed in archived issues of the 1935

Lansing Journal, Gus offered not only hardware, but also furnaces and furnace repair, plumbing and heating supplies, washing machines, and paints. The phone number listed was Lansing 6.

Eventually, the Schultz family moved their store elsewhere, and Gus Bock's Hardware filled the space. In the 1960s, the store became one of the first to join the True Value co-op: store number 21. They switched to Ace in the 80s.

Two of Gus' four children joined him at his hardware store: Walter and Ruth, both of whom later became part-owners. In fact, Walter spent more than 40 years at Ace before retiring to Arizona in 1982; he died in 2002. Ruth worked at the family store for more than 50 years, and was the last Bock to own it. She lived in Lansing until she passed away in 1998.

Gus Bock wasn't just the town's hardware store owner; he was also a member of the Trinity Lutheran Church Men's Club and the Lansing Lions Club, and he spent 45 years as the Village Treasurer. He was known as a kind man who was helpful and knowledgeable—traits that still characterize the stores that bear his name.

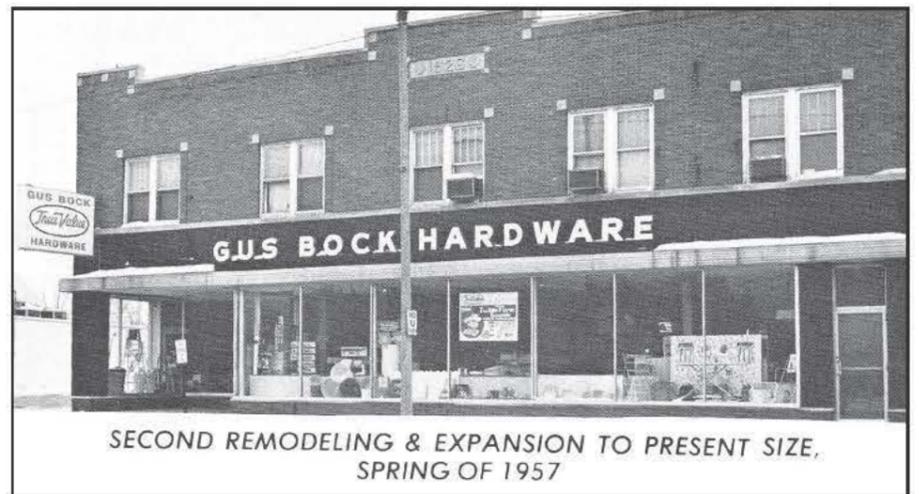
That name is still atop the hardware store, of course; but there is also a park named for him at 175th Street (the site of the dog park planned for 2018), and there's a road with his family name that runs from 183rd to 186th on the west side of Lansing.

## TODAY: GUS BOCK'S ACE HARDWARE, NOW OWNED BY THE GRILL FAMILY

Keith Grill, Sr., never met Gus Bock, but he knows the history. He began working for



2017 (Photo: Ashlee De Wit)



the Bock family in 1975, just a year after Gus passed away. He managed the store, under the condition that he would eventually buy it. Neither Walter nor Ruth had children, so they knew that when they retired, there wouldn't be another Bock to take ownership.

Grill, Sr., was a fitting choice to take over—the hardware business runs in his family, too. Grill's father opened a hardware store in 1929 in Midlothian, a store that survived the Great Depression. When his parents retired in 1962, he ran the store with his brother. About 12 years later, he sold his half to his brother and started looking for a job. "That's when I came to Lansing," he said.

He purchased the store from Walter Bock and Ruth Bock in the 1980s, but he left the name alone. "At first, I thought it might be good to simplify the name," Grill said—but Ruth, still the owner at the time, wouldn't allow it. "I later realized the

name had a lot of importance."

The store has since expanded to two other locations—Dyer (1990) and Munster (2004). Both opened under the Grill family's ownership, but still bear the "Gus Bock" name. When they were establishing the new Ace store in Dyer, Grill says, one customer told them he would have been there much sooner if he had known it was a Gus Bock hardware. So they added the Lansing legend's name to the new shop.

Grill, Sr., retired in 2007, and his sons took over the business. So Keith Grill, Jr., and Rob Grill are third-generation hardware store owners.

"We are very pleased that the Lansing community has supported us over the years, and we're very thankful for that," Grill, Sr., said.

Grill, Jr., who manages the Lansing store, plans to keep the family business going. "My son is 14," he said. "Hopefully a fourth generation can take over."

## Festival, continued from page 1

different countries," Dust said. "So it has its merits."

Those artifacts she talks about range from toys to costumes to dolls to authentic ornaments from various countries that have been donated by Lansing residents. Dust provides some of her own artifacts as well, items she's picked up from her travels—including Russian figurines, a Little Red Riding doll she got in Budapest, and Yule Lad ornaments from Iceland.

### ICELAND

Dust recounted the legend of the Yule Lads, explaining that these 13 mischievous creatures would visit kids in the 13 days before Christmas and play little tricks, but they would

also leave little presents in the kids' shoes.

Another old bit of Icelandic holiday lore is the "Christmas Cat," a mythical feline who eats children who did not do their knitting. Since many families were too poor to purchase store-bought clothes, knitting was necessary work. If a child hadn't knitted a pair of mittens by Christmas, it was said that the Christmas Cat would show up and eat her.

Dust also noted that because so few trees grow in the volcanic areas of Iceland, pieces of driftwood were collected and decorated instead of trees.

### LITHUANIA

On the Lithuanian tree visitors

Museum Curator Barb Dust holds a Yule Lad ornament on the Iceland Tree. (Photo: Carrie Steinweg)



# Merry Christmas

FROM

# L.A.C.E.

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will find real straw ornaments that were given to Dust by a family on a trip to Lithuania. The tree is also adorned with detailed ornaments constructed of drinking straws. The ornaments were made at the Balzekas Museum of Lithuanian Culture in Chicago.

### COMMUNITY CONTRIBUTORS

The Italian Tree has ornaments that were made by Lansing Historical Society member Vanessa Nesbit, who made ornaments from a calendar of Italian Renaissance artists. Joyce Mulder decorated the Holland tree with porcelain Delft pieces.

Grace Bazylewski taps into her Polish roots in decorating the tree for Poland with handmade ornaments, including paper and eggshell ornaments. "They're pretty traditional," she said. "People couldn't afford glass or bulbs, so they would use egg shells. They punch a hole in the bottom, blow them out, pour wax in and paint them." Bazylewski explained that ornaments were made during the Advent season, and the tree would go up on Christmas Eve. "In our home, we would never dress up the tree before Christmas Eve," she said.

### PICKLES AND COOKIES

Paul Schultz, who decorated the German tree with his wife, Carol, recalled the German tradition of hiding a pickle ornament on the tree. The first of the children to find it would get a prize. The Schultz family continues each year with a pickle hunt on the tree. The first of the grandkids to spot it gets a two dollar bill from grandpa.

Near the back of the museum is a kitchen scene of cookies being prepared along with a recipe for peppernuts cookies from Adele Schultz. Copies are available for visitors to take home. The recipe was prepared in kitchens of many of Lansing's early German families.

### OTHER THEMES

The Festival of Lights also includes trees with a theme that isn't related to a country. The "Plane Tree" celebrates the Ford Tri-Motor; the "LARC Tree" showcases the work of local developmentally disabled adults; the Lansing Association for Community Events has a "LACE Tree;" and

## Cultures represented in Lansing's 2017 Festival of Lights

1. USA (Early American tree)
2. Germany
3. Holland
4. Mexico
5. Puerto Rico
6. Philippine Islands
7. Japan
8. Ireland
9. Scotland
10. Great Britain
11. Poland
12. Italy
13. Croatia
14. France
15. Africa
16. Israel (Hanukkah)
17. Lithuania
18. Slovakia
19. Sweden
20. Iceland
21. Norway
22. Serbia
23. Austria
24. Hungary
25. Greece
26. Russia
27. Victorian England
28. Master Gardeners tree
29. Village of Lansing tree
30. L.A.C.E. tree
31. L.A.R.C. tree
32. Tatted lace trees (2)
33. LHS Membership tree
34. Military Patriotic tree
35. African-American (Kwanzaa)
36. History of the Christmas tree
37. Angels and Nativity scenes
38. History of the Lansing Santa House

a "Patriotic Tree" decorated in red, white, and blue is dedicated to all who have served.

### WHEN TO VISIT

The Festival of Lights exhibit is open Monday and Tuesday 6:00–8:00pm, Wednesday and Thursday 3:00–5:00pm, and Saturday from 11:00am to 1:00pm. Tours can be arranged at other times by calling 708-474-7497. Festival of Lights runs through January 6.



The Kwanzaa display includes a number of symbolic artifacts. A page of Kwanzaa history and a description of The Seven Principles are also displayed. (Photo: Melanie Jongsma)

# Santa, from page 1

the former Village Hall (3403 Lake Street). The house remained there until 2013 when Visible Music College leased the building and ADA regulations required changes to the parking lot. For two years, the Santa House had a temporary home in a Ridge Road store front.

Now a permanent Santa House has been built near the Fox Pointe development. The 18x16' structure will be accessible via sidewalks and bike paths. Because of its proximity to Fox Pointe, there will also be plenty of parking and restrooms available to visitors.

Donations of time, expertise, and money helped keep costs low. "It's been a really, really interesting and exciting mix of volunteerism, generosity, and old-fashioned work," said Ken Reynolds, Director of Communications for the Village.

John Cole was the first to offer his services, and he became the default volunteer project manager. "John was unbelievably dedicated to [the house] and the driving force on a daily basis," said Reynolds.

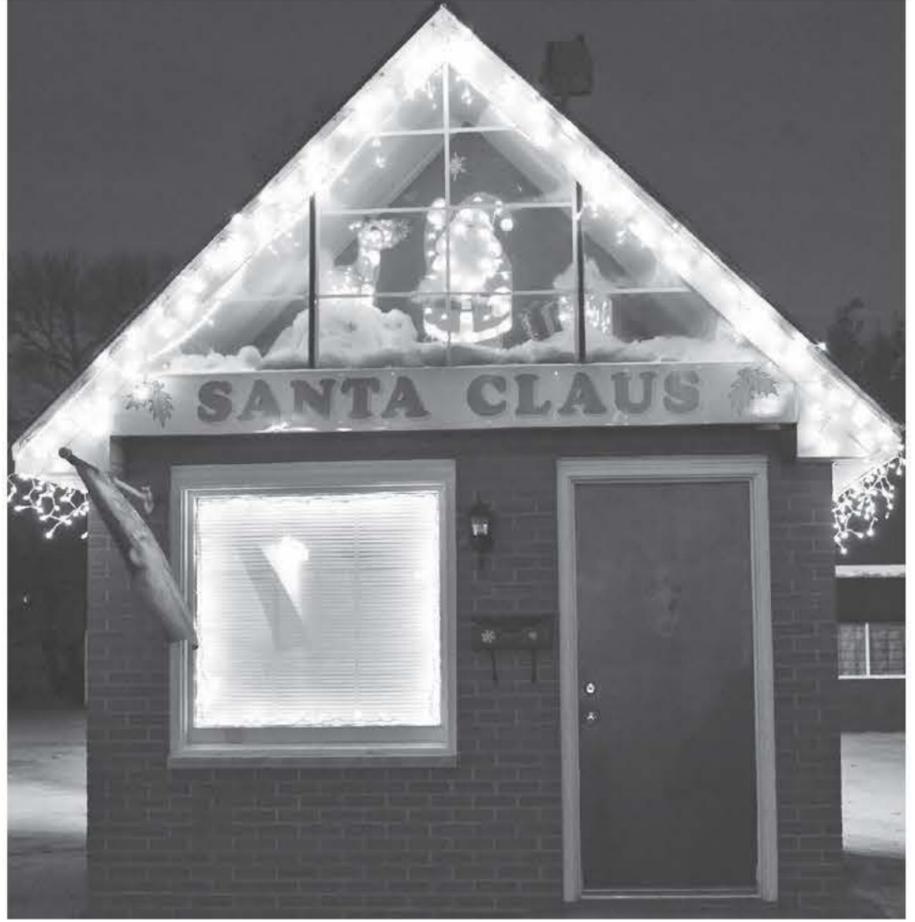
The Lansing Area Chamber of

Commerce organizes the events surrounding Santa's official arrival in Lansing. This year he arrived via firetruck on Saturday, December 2, for the annual tree lighting at Clock Tower Plaza. Following the tree lighting, Santa headed to the American Legion, where he visited with children from 6:00-9:00pm.

Beginning on December 6, Santa takes up residence in his new Santa House, and he will receive visitors on regularly scheduled days and times throughout December (see "Santa's Santa House Schedule," front page).

The Santa House is accessible only via Henry Street. Because of the proximity to the Fox Pointe construction, lighting and unfinished landscaping are a safety concern, so traffic from the west (Roy Street) will not be permitted.

Throughout Santa season parking will be available at Visible Music College as well as on the streets. Volunteers will be on-site to direct people. Reynolds recommends that families bring their cameras and wish lists whenever they visit Santa. Goody bags donated by the Chamber of Commerce will be given to children after their visit.



Above: Santa's first permanent home was built in 1975 in the parking lot of the former Village Hall at 3403 Lake Street. (Photo provided) Below: the new Santa House is about four times the size of the old one, and the brickwork is designed to complement the neighboring buildings in the Fox Pointe development. (Photo: Melanie Jongsma)

# Our Lady of Guadalupe Celebración in Lansing



Alberto's Beauty Salon (3220 E. 170th Street) will host a *celebración* on December 12. (Photo: Melanie Jongsma)

BY MELANIE JONGSMA

LANSING, Ill. (December 2017) - For the Hispanic Catholic community in Lansing, December 12 is a special day. It is the date when tradition says the Lady of Guadalupe appeared to a Mexican peasant, Juan Diego, in 1531. In Mexico, the date is a national holiday, a day when schools and businesses close and families gather for feasting and music.

In Lansing, Three Roosters and Albertos Beauty Salon have held their own December 12 celebration for five or six years. "It's an important day in the community," explains Daisy Herrera, manager at Three Roosters. Owner Ernesto Aceuedo donates food for the gathering, a Catholic priest does the mass, and a Mariachi band accompanies the festivities.

Though Three Roosters' *Celebración de Nuestra Virgen de Guadalupe* is particularly meaningful for Hispanics, hospitality is extended

to all of Lansing. The Lady of Guadalupe is said to represent the poor and marginalized, and Mexican-American hospitality is famous for making people feel welcome.

### CELEBRATION DETAILS

- *En Honor a La Virgen de Guadalupe* (In honor of the Lady of Guadalupe)
- Three Roosters y (and) Alberto's Beauty Salon
- *Los Invita a Todos a Reunirse* (invite everyone to meet)
- *El 12 de Diciembre* (December 12)
- *Para la Gran Celebración de Nuestra Virgen de Guadalupe* (for the great celebration of Our Lady of Guadalupe)
- *Habra Misa, Mariachi, y Comida.* (There will be mass, Mariachi, and food.)
- *Acompananos para la Misa.* (Join us for mass.)
- Tuesday, 12/12/17, 9:00am
- Alberto's Beauty Salon, 3220 E 171st Street, Lansing, Illinois



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# Lansing's Vivian Payne joins South Suburban College Board

Board Chair Zuccarelli cites Payne's community involvement, leadership experience, and widespread respect as qualifications

BY MELANIE JONGSMA

SOUTH HOLLAND, Ill. (November 16 2017) - At a special meeting of the Board of Trustees of South Suburban College, Vivian Payne was appointed and approved to fill the seat vacated by Trustee Jacqueline Martin, whose resignation had been accepted by the Board. Board Chairman Frank Zuccarelli recommended Payne because, "She's done a great job in municipal government, and she's the best qualified for this position because of the region she lives in and her involvement in her community at all different levels."

The Board agreed, and Payne was voted in unanimously and sworn in immediately.

In addition to currently serving as Lansing's Village Clerk, Payne has served as Director of the Lansing Area Chamber of Commerce and the President of the Lansing Business Women's Association. Her network of contacts includes local, township, and state connections. "She knows how to work with

people," said Zuccarelli.

The South Suburban College Board also includes Board Chair Frank Zuccarelli; Vice Chair John Daly; Board Secretary Janet Rogers; Trustees Terry Wells, Anthony P. DeFilippo, and Joseph Washington; College President Don Manning and Student Trustee Ronnell Art Tatum. Payne is eager to represent Lansing within Community College District 510, which encompasses South Suburban College. District 510 includes 18 villages, ranging in population from 1,532 (East Hazel Crest) to 56,831 (Tinley Park). With a population of 28,086, Lansing is the third largest village served by South Suburban College.

The main campus of South Suburban College is located at 15800 South State Street in South Holland, Illinois. For general information, call 708-596-2000 or visit [www.ssc.edu](http://www.ssc.edu).



Top photo: Martin Lareau (right) administers the oath of office to Vivian Payne after her appointment received unanimous approval from the Board.



Bottom: Vice Chair John Daly welcomes Vivian Payne to the South Suburban College Board of Trustees. (Photos: Melanie Jongsma)

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# Lansing Voices

Thoughtful opinions from Journal readers

The Lansing Journal is a community newspaper. We welcome input from fellow residents who have thoughtful things to say about topics that are important to our community. In publishing these writings—here and online—we hope to encourage respectful conversation even in the face of disagreement. Send submissions to [info@thelansingjournal.com](mailto:info@thelansingjournal.com) with "Voices" in the subject line.

## Unity in diversity

THOUGHTFUL COMMENTS SUBMITTED BY LOIS OOMS, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CONSULTANT, DYER, INDIANA

We are entering the Christmas season, the season of "peace on earth." Yet we listen to the news and hear about tensions and wars in many countries of the world. We also look around our communities and see tensions—people who don't talk with each other for years, neighbors who are afraid because others don't "look like them," and all kinds of rumors, stereotypes, and biases. We feel threatened by those whom we don't really understand. How do we even begin to think about peace?

I have lived and worked in many countries in the world, and I have seen that peace begins with my own attitude. When I see a person who may be very different from myself, do I jump to conclusions and believe the stereotypes? "He looks like a drug addict." "She doesn't take care of herself." "He's dressed like a terrorist." "Their name indicates they're from an ethnicity that sticks with their own kind." And on and on it goes.

This kind of thinking creates barriers. The issue is NOT whether a perceived bias is true or not. My attitude or perception will affect the way I interact with someone.

On the other hand, when I look past the stereotypes and see an individual as a person, I can restrain myself from making assumptions. I can express curiosity rather than jumping to conclusions. I can ask questions and learn things I didn't know. This is how relationships grow—when we recognize that we need each other in all our similarities and differences.

Some time ago I asked a variety of Lansing residents from various backgrounds and ethnic groups, "What do you like about living in Lansing?" Close to 90% of them responded with something like, "It is a quiet, secure community." That tells me that underneath the externals, we have similar needs—for security, for meaning in life, for significance.

There is so much tradition and nostalgia surrounding Christmas, and we can easily make assumptions about people whose traditions are different from ours. But I hope in our little towns we can extend peace by engaging in conversation and being willing to learn about each other.

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# Lansing Lions Club: a vision for service

BY KATIE ARVIA

LANSING, Ill. (November 2017) - For 80 years, the Lansing Lions Club has been giving back to the community through donations of time, energy, and monetary relief. Founded in 1937, the club currently has a roster of approximately 40 members. Since its foundation, the Lansing Lions Club has undertaken many projects, such as feeding the homeless, providing eyeglasses to the less fortunate, and collecting donations for Camp Quality, a week-long retreat for children with cancer.

Current Lions president Bert Rivera travels to Mexico each year with fellow Lion Richard Rucoba to distribute eyeglasses and provide eye exams. "We go there for one week or two weeks, depending on the year, and we help close to 6,000 people in one week," said Rivera.

Collected glasses are first sent to Westville Correctional Facility in Indiana, where there is a work program for inmates to repair the lenses. Afterward, the glasses are taken to Mexico and donated to people in need. Any glasses that are leftover are donated to Mexican optometrists to give to their patients throughout the year. Donations are accepted year-round and collection boxes can be found in churches or optometrist offices throughout Lansing.

The Lansing Lions have also made important contributions to local community life. Many permanent structures in town have been donated by the club, including the aptly named Lions Stadium and Lions Park. The Lansing Police Department was gifted surveillance equipment, and the Lansing Fire Department was given "Pluggie," a robotic fire hydrant that teaches children about fire safety.

Currently, the Lansing Lions are working with

St. Victor Church in Calumet City to provide meals to the homeless. Rivera said they have a goal of providing food six times per year—about 50 meals each time—including a dinner for the upcoming Christmas holiday.

Eric Himmel, a third-generation Lion and former president of the Lansing chapter (the youngest ever), said, "It's a great group of guys that want to get together for a greater mission: to help those who are less fortunate. We do fun stuff too! It's a nice social club that has a fantastic underlying

'give back' message."

The Lansing Lions Club accepts and encourages new members



Bert Rivera, Lansing Lions president

year-round. "I would encourage them if they want to serve. As long as we've got people interested

in giving back to the community, we'll be here," Rivera said.

Himmel added, "I would encourage people to join because it's a good thing to do. You feel good, you give back, you meet people. Get out there and meet new people, experience something different, be a part of something bigger than us."

For more information on the Lansing Lions Club, visit [www.e-club-house.org/sites/lansingil](http://www.e-club-house.org/sites/lansingil) or call the Lansing Chamber of Commerce at 708-474-4170.

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<p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">First Church (PCA)</p> <p>3134 Ridge Road, Lansing 474-9610 <a href="http://www.firstchurchpca.org">www.firstchurchpca.org</a> Ben Kappers, Pastor</p> <p>Morning Worship ..... 9:30 a.m. Sunday School ..... 11:00 a.m. Evening Worship ..... 5:30 p.m.</p>	<p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">New Hope Church</p> <p>Bible Based Celebrating Diversity 3642 Lake Street, Lansing 474-7717 <a href="http://www.aNewHopeMinistry.org">www.aNewHopeMinistry.org</a> Rev. Daniel Roels</p> <p>Worship Service ..... 10:00 a.m.</p>

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# Diversity encouraged in Lansing's Citizen's Police Academy

## Lt. Scott Bailey hopes for a variety of ages, races

BY MELANIE JONGSMA

LANSING, Ill. (November 29, 2017) — Since the early 2000s, the Lansing Police Department has offered a Citizen's Police Academy for Lansing residents. Lt. Scott Bailey is organizing the program this year, with help from Sgt. Gabe Barajas.

Bailey hopes the series of nine classes will enhance relationships between Lansing police and the general Lansing community. "It's the police and the citizens together who make up a community," he said. "We want to educate the community about how we serve them." Bailey's goal is that the series of classes and the variety of information will help dispel any misinformation. "If there's fear, we want to take that away."

### SCHEDULED TOPICS

Bailey acknowledges that past academies have consisted mainly of older citizens, and he is hoping the upcoming class will be more diverse. Having more of Lansing represented will make the classroom interactions more meaningful, particularly during the discussion of "Social Media and Law



Lt. Scott Bailey (left) and Sgt. Gabe Barajas will lead the Citizen's Police Academy that begins January 17. The police department's classroom can accommodate about 30 students. (Photo: Melanie Jongsma)

Enforcement" that is planned as one of the class topics.

Other scheduled topics include Police Ethics, Crime Scene Processing, Criminal Law and Procedure, Use of Force, Drug Use, and Canine Demonstrations.

### CLASS REQUIREMENTS

The academy is open only to Lansing residents, though enrollment may be extended outside of Lansing if room in the class is available.

The classes are free, and a background check is done on all enrollees. A simple application form gathers basic information—name, address, phone, employer, and one reference, along with an explanation of why you want to attend the Citizen's Police Academy.

The classroom can accommodate about 30 students. The Lansing Police Department likes to have at least 15 enrolled in order to invest staff time in the program.

The upcoming Lansing Citizen's Police Academy will run on Wednesdays, January 17–March 14, from 7:00–9:30pm.

### CONTACT INFO

Classes are held at the Lansing Police Department, 2710 170th Street in Lansing. Contact Lt. Scott Bailey for more information or to enroll: 708-895-7130 or [sbailey@villageoflansing.org](mailto:sbailey@villageoflansing.org).

### EXPERT TEACHERS

Lt. Bailey will do some of the teaching, but he will also bring in guest experts on many of the topics.

Citizen's Police Academy classes are held at the Lansing Police Department, 2710 170th Street in Lansing. Contact Lt. Scott Bailey for more information or to enroll: 708-895-7130 or [sbailey@villageoflansing.org](mailto:sbailey@villageoflansing.org). (Photo: Melanie Jongsma)

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# 'Code Red' information system keeps Lansing informed

## Village responds to resident feedback

BY MELANIE JONGSMA

LANSING, Ill. (October 2017) – Despite the name, Lansing's Code Red system is not only about emergency alerts. The program offers a variety of news-sharing features for residents who sign up.

Director of Communications Ken Reynolds would like to "blow the dust off" the system and use it for communicating important

information in new ways. "Many of our residents want information to be delivered via text," said Reynolds at a Chamber luncheon where he was discussing the system.

Code Red was actually implemented in Lansing in 2014, and the Police Department has been the primary user—furthering the perception that it is primarily an emergency alert system. But the system has

a variety of other capabilities as well, and Reynolds believes it can become a useful communication tool. The system allows people to choose the types of information they receive—general notifications, emergency alerts, and weather alerts. The "general"



category is the one Reynolds wants to make better use of. Road closures, water main breaks, power outages, school closings, and Santa House hours are all examples of "situations where residents have said, 'I wanna know what's going on,'" explained Reynolds. "Not emergencies, and not social stuff, but things that impact a significant percentage of the village."

Residents who have waited in traffic along Torrence or 186th, unaware that a train is stopped on the tracks, might appreciate a text alert letting them know that three of Lansing's intersections are blocked by that train. Reminders about Cruise Nights and Autumn Fest could help people plan their weekend traffic patterns. And in cases of special events like the August 16 Community Forum, Code Red could inform people who aren't reached by other forms of communication.

The Village will listen to feedback from residents about the types of information they want less of or more of. "We are going to be very sensitive to what people might consider 'necessary information,'" affirmed Reynolds. He does not want Code Red messages to be considered spam, and he estimates that "general" messages might go out about three or four times a month. People who do not consider the information useful can opt out at any time.

The Village is planning an information campaign about the Code Red system, and the campaign will include step-by-step instructions about signing up. Residents who don't want to wait for the campaign, or who don't need the instructions, can sign up right away at [villageoflansing.org](http://villageoflansing.org). "Code Red Signup" is under the "Residents" tab, and selecting it will open a new page where users can create a managed account with Code Red. The enrollment process allows participants to choose whether they want to receive General, Emergency, or Weather alerts, and whether they want to receive them via text, email, or phone call.

Reynolds and other Village staff are available to answer questions about Code Red, but for more hands-on assistance with creating an account, residents are encouraged to visit Lansing Public Library, where someone can provide help on a library computer.

The Lansing Public Library is located at 2750 Indiana Avenue in Lansing.

# Lansing criminologist Elvis Slaughter publishes research findings

## *Preschool to Prison* discusses education, environment, and parenting factors

BY MELANIE JONGSMA

LANSING, Ill. (November 21, 2017) - Elvis Slaughter, Lansing resident and current member of the Fire and Police Commission, has released his new book, *Preschool to Prison*. The book discusses risk factors and problem behavior in children and teenagers, and offers advice for effective handling of such situations.

Slaughter's work explores the question, "Is the journey to prison determined by the school, environment, or parent?" He draws from his experience as an educator, retired sheriff's superintendent, fire and police commissioner, and criminologist, including a tour of duty at one of the largest penal systems in the nation.

"Contrary to popular belief," says Slaughter, "acting out is not the only cause for concern. Countless

factors come together to create a criminal. Some factors are controllable; others are not." *Preschool to Prison* explains those factors and offers research-based solutions for dealing with criminal behaviors. "The best and most effective time to stop the cradle-to-prison pipeline," asserts Slaughter, "is as close to the beginning of the pipeline as possible."

Slaughter's goal for the book is to encourage collaboration among parents, school administrators, and community members to raise responsible children. He believes that by working together, society can create enabling elements that influence the decision-making process during the various stages of a person's development.

*Preschool to Prison* is available in paperback from Amazon.com.

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR



Elvis Slaughter, MSCJ, is an educator, author, consultant, publisher, retired sheriff's superintendent, fire and police commissioner, and criminologist. His other titles include *Safer Jail* and *Prison Matters: Effective Ways To Manage and Reduce Violence in Correctional Facilities*. (Photo provided)



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# Memories and connections at the Golden Crown

Patrons get more than good food at Torrence Avenue diner

BY MELANIE JONGSMA

LANSING, Ill. (November 16, 2017) - A skillet called "Melting Pot" is the first item on the battered menu card, and that's an accurate description of the atmosphere at this little Torrence Avenue diner. Pete Nicholas, the owner of the Golden Crown, came to America from Greece in 1956. This morning, wearing his kitchen apron, he sits in a booth across from a gray-haired customer, and they chat in accents that are not mid-western. In the next booth, a large white man in an American flag jacket orders "the usual." Behind me, a distinguished black man in business casual is greeted by name. In a back room, a few Dutch retirees have gathered for coffee and conversation. Over the counter, the tinny speakers play WXRT.

When Janet Gatto and her almost-three-year-old son Joel enter the north doors, diners and staff alike raise a chorus of greeting. Everyone knows them—Joel is a third-generation Golden Crown regular, and this melting-pot crowd has been watching him grow up week by week.

## MEMORIES

"My dad ate here every day once he retired," explains Janet while coffee is poured and menus are handed out. "He lived in Beecher by then, and he drove here every day for breakfast." Janet's father, James Olsen, had been a regular at the Crown while he lived in Lansing, and Janet remembers coming here with him on weekends as a little girl. In fact, this restaurant is where James first met his wife Sharon, who waitressed here when it was an A&W. The Schultzes, owners of the A&W, introduced them.

So it was natural that James



"How hungry are you?" asks Golden Crown waitress Debbie Michael. If the answer is, "Very," the "Melting Pot" skillet, shown below, is a popular choice. (Photos: Melanie Jongsma)

would keep coming here for breakfast, even after his wife died, even after he retired. Even after his own memory began fading. When he was no longer able to live alone, Janet and her husband Andy brought him into their home, and they proactively took charge of his car keys.

"So then I started bringing him here every day," nods Janet.

Like any new routine, those daily drives were a disruption at first. But Janet could see that the Crown was a place where her dad could reconnect with his old self. The friendly faces and familiar conversational patterns surrounded him and carried him. And Janet got swept up in the banter too.

She was pregnant with Joel at that time, and the diner became a place where Dad's history and the new baby's future



could both be a shared joy.

James Olsen died last month. Janet still comes to the Golden Crown about three days a week.

"These are my people," she says.

## CONNECTIONS

On this day we happen to be here between "shifts" —there's an "early shift" of customers who grab breakfast on their way to work, and a "late early shift" that starts populating the booths after 8:30am. Janet's dad used to come in early, but now, with Joel, Janet typically arrives later. The crowd is sparse at the moment, so the waitresses have time to chat with the regulars. Stories are swapped about jobs and holidays and adventures at the vet. Plans are made to try the new Unlock A Lock Escape Room in Lansing. Joel toddles around like a miniature shift supervisor, checking

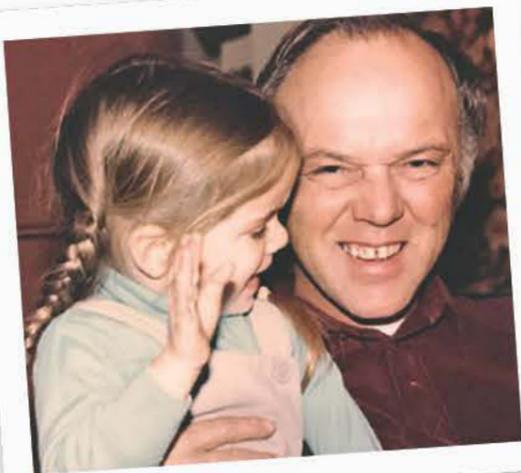
on the patrons and helping out the staff. He has been coming here since before he was born, so he is the Golden Crown's golden boy.

The crowd of 8:30am diners used to number up to 45, and in a wave of nostalgia the waitresses begin reciting names of regulars who aren't here any more. Burt. Harold who drove the school bus. Al the painter. Archie. Jerry. Most lived in Lansing. Some were retired or widowed. All sought camaraderie, whether they realized it or not. That's what the Crown provides. Not just coffee. Connection.

## SUCCESSION

Owner Pete Nicholas is not the most obvious personality at the Golden Crown, but his matter-of-fact hospitality is probably the foundation of the community that has persisted here for his 40-year term. (He bought the place from "Mr. Big" in 1978.) Pete is 89 years old. He's not necessarily thinking of retiring, but he also doesn't have any kind of succession plan in place. His son and daughter moved on to other jobs in other towns. The only family member involved in the restaurant is Pete's nephew, Greg Madouras, who serves as chef. Greg enjoys his work, but he's not necessarily interested in owning the place.

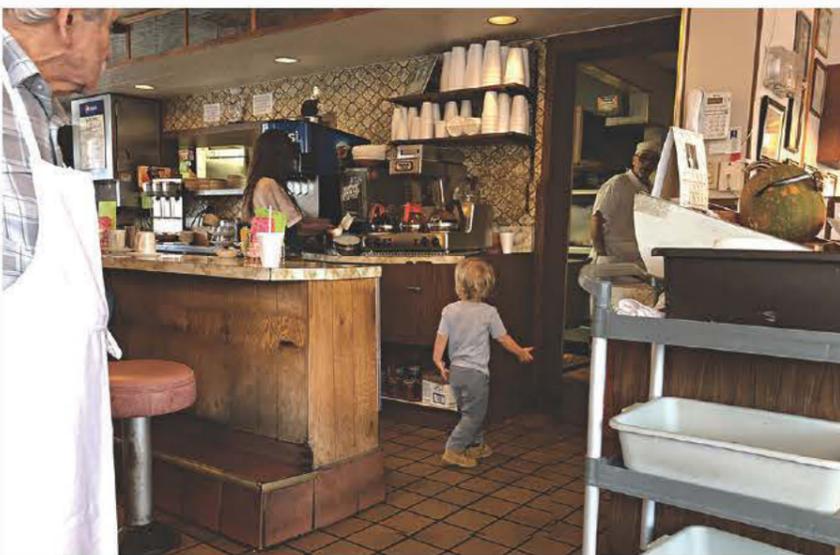
So Janet—and probably Willie and Ben and other Golden Crown customers, along with Greg and Debbie and other Golden Crown staff—is worried that whenever Pete reaches a point that he can't



Janet and her dad, James Olsen (Photo provided)



"If I had a million dollars, I'd buy it," says Janet Gatto, pictured here with Pete Nicholas, owner of the Golden Crown. (Photo: Melanie Jongsma)



Above: Owner Pete Nicholas (left) watches three-year-old Joel Gatto check on Chef Greg, seen in the doorway to the kitchen. Below: Pete and his chef nephew, Greg Madouras. (Photos: Melanie Jongsma)



run the restaurant, it will close. "If I had a million dollars, I'd buy it," says Janet, though on some level she realizes that successful succession is not a matter of money. It isn't money that can preserve these relationships, these people who formed a community around James Olsen, and who now do the same for his daughter and grandson.

**SATISFACTION**

We talk for a while about how community happens, and how to hang on, and when to let go. We wonder if letting something go is necessarily a sad thing, if change is always loss.

Perhaps the best way to honor what Pete Nicholas and the Golden

Crown bring to Lansing is to simply acknowledge that it can't be duplicated. To enjoy it while it's here, but then release it. To recognize that everything has a season.

These are heavy questions to ponder over hash browns, but discussing them helps, too. Thinking in terms of seasons relieves some of the pressure to hang on forever.

And so, for now, in this season, we simply agree to enjoy it while we can—this moment, this community, these people, these memories. Debbie pours us another cup of coffee, and we sit back, content, while we wait for the table to be cleared and the final check to come.

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If you have ever visited one of Jim's restaurants you know it is not uncommon to see him sitting at his desk with more than one phone line going. "My job has evolved over the years into more of an administrative roll. I am the only one who books all the catering, with that being said I am so busy booking catering jobs all day that I don't have time for much else." When talking to Jim I noticed how much he talked about his staff. "This is by far the best crew I've ever had! I have passed on all my recipes to my cooks who, if anything, have only improved the quality of our products." It appears that the staff at Jimboos is more than JUST staff, they work together more like a big family. As a long time customer, they make you feel right at home, as if you were also a part of the family.

When I finally asked Jim if he ever thinks about retirement, he told me, "I absolutely love what I do. It is a thought that rarely ever comes to mind." He jokingly went on to say, "Don't get me wrong, I'd love to hit the Lotto and be able to retire." I've grown up on Jimboos food for as long as I can remember and I truly hope he is around for another thirty years so I can continue to enjoy it with my family.

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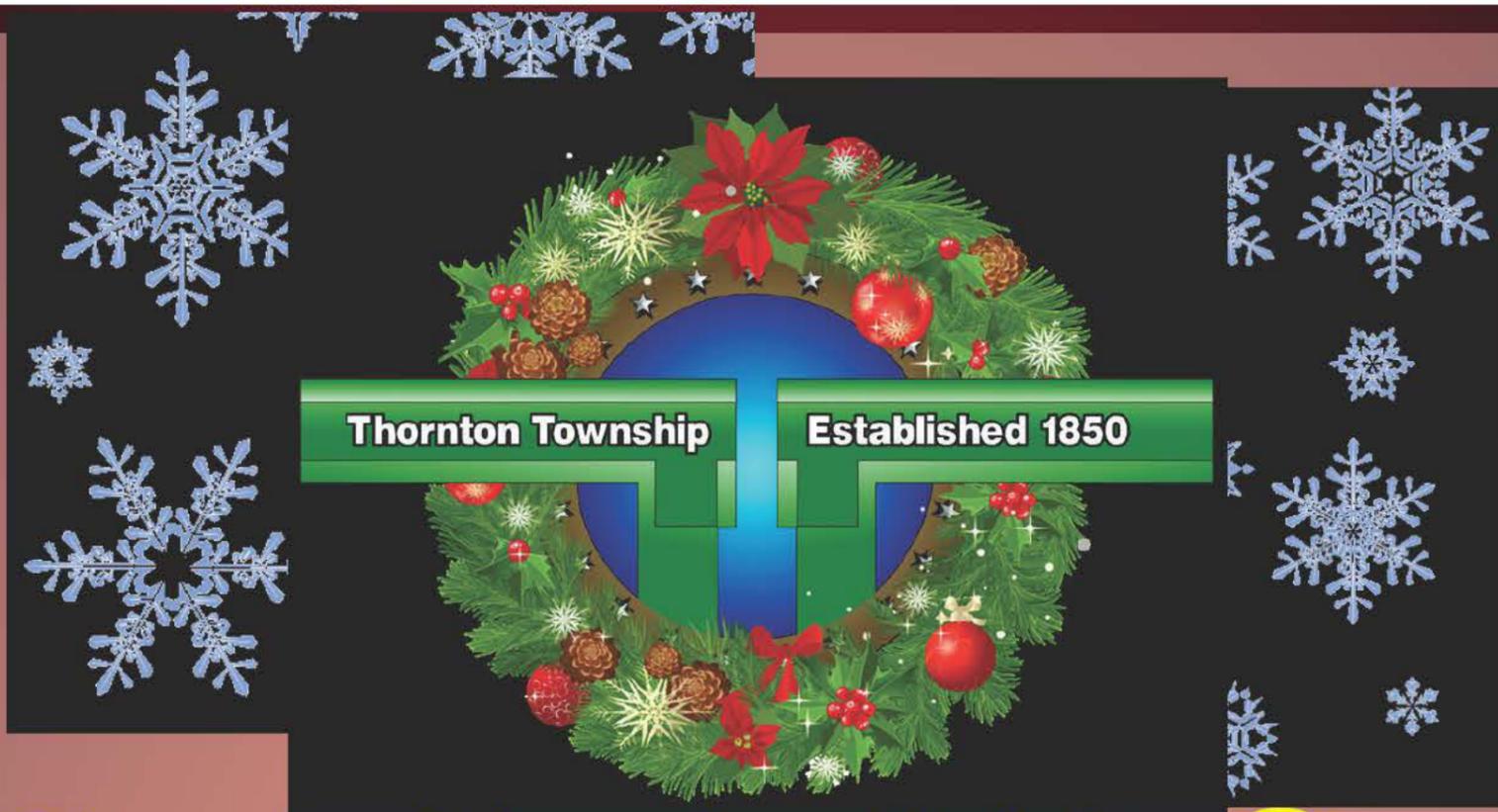
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# River Oaks shoppers share holiday traditions

## Trees, turkey, tamales, and more

PHOTOS AND STORY  
BY PATRICIA MUHAMMAD

CALUMET CITY, Ill. (December 2017) - Holiday shopping is in full gear, and it is typical during this time of the year to find local malls swamped with holiday shoppers seeking bargains and discounts. The Lansing Journal wanted to know how area citizens typically celebrate the holiday. We found several holiday shoppers at the River Oaks shopping center who took time to share their holiday traditions.



Tonya Hunt  
Calumet City, Illinois

"I celebrate the holiday with my family, and during this time, I thank God for blessing me with everything I have. I enjoy the time I spend with my family. Our dinner is a traditional Christmas dinner complete with turkey and all the fixings."



Marilyn Worries  
Lansing, Illinois

"I spend the holidays mostly with family, and we go to the Christmas Tree Lighting in Lansing

every year. As a tradition, we go and cut down a Christmas tree the day after Thanksgiving. We usually go to cut the tree with my children and grandchildren. My husband and I cut down two trees. He decorates a tree in the basement, and I decorate one upstairs. We will have family and out-of-towners for the holidays."



Daniel Indicavitch  
Hegewisch, Illinois

"Christmas is celebrated traditionally, surrounded with family. We enjoy food, fun, and church. I am a firefighter, and if I am lucky to be off, I take time to relax and spend time with family."

"Christmas is celebrated traditionally, surrounded with family. We enjoy food, fun, and church. I am a firefighter, and if I am lucky to be off, I take time to relax and spend time with family."



Emmanuel Arroyo  
East Chicago, Indiana

"We usually get together at my mom's house for the holidays. Everybody brings a Mexican dish, and along with the dish, we add a red or green molé sauce with chicken or rice on the side. It's delicious. We also enjoy fixing tamales. We sit around the table and create a family chain to help put the tamales together, which include the leaves, and the meat. When we finish with tamales, we place them in a basket and then wait until 12 o'clock, and everyone eats and open their presents."

"We usually get together at my mom's house for the holidays. Everybody

we sit down to a great meal Christmas dinner. This year, I will celebrate Christmas with my wife, my kids, and my mother. For my family and me, it will be a time of celebration and fun."



Michael Ramirez  
East Chicago, Indiana

"First and foremost, I spend the holiday with family. We are not expecting guests for Christmas, but we did have guests over for Thanksgiving. I'm Latino, so in my community, it's state law that we must have tamales on Christmas day. This year, we will add lasagna. As for gift-giving, I take pride in giving great gifts, because I don't like giving crap gifts. Whoever I give presents to, it's no accident that I know what they like, and I feel blessed enough to have a job not to split hairs over buying gifts for family and friends."

"First and foremost, I spend the holiday with family. We are not expecting guests for Christmas, but we did



Delridge Warlick  
Chicago, Illinois

"I haven't celebrated Christmas in a long time, but I hope to this year. Traditionally we open up presents in the morning and later in the afternoon, we pray over dinner, and then

"I haven't celebrated Christmas in a long time, but I hope to this year. Traditionally we open up presents in

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wanted person to watch a Yorkie terrier during Christmas time under \$20 a day 219-730-3370

wanted Gas self propelled mower under \$50 219-730-3370

wanted Gas self propelled mower under \$50 219-730-3370

wanted person to tune up my Snow blower from menards in Schererville 219-730-3370

Wanted: Chandelier antique, beautiful for diningroom. Call. 708-360-3068

Wanted: Ladies leather jacket size 18 or 20, black or red. Call. 708-360-3068

Wanted: Aluminum ladder, 16 feet to 20 feet in length. 773-785-7247

Looking for family and friends to spend the holidays with. Please email me. Have suffered recent loss and seeking compassion. pbug@sbcglobal.net

Wanted: snow blowers, lawn mowers, rototillers, power washers, old gas mini bikes, tools, power and hand, all garage and shed stuff. 219-8=484-7376

## Automobiles

**For sale: 1964 Lincoln Continental,** 4door. Need seat, interior and much more. Has suicide doors. \$3000/obo. Serious buyers. 708-789-5034 or 708-895-8012

**For sale: 2001 Landrover Discovery** 11SE, A/C runs good, \$1200 or best offer, silver color. Reliable. 708-789-5034 or 708-895-8012

**For sale: 2016 Chevy Malibu** LS Silver, \$18,495. Call Bob 855-949-6000

**For sale: 2011 Chevy Impala** LT Fleet Cyber Gray Metallic, \$7,987. Call Bob 855-949-6000

**For sale: 2016 Chevy Corvette** Stingray Z51, Charcoal gray \$59,987. Call Bob 855-949-6000

**For sale: 2012 Chevy Express** Van. Loaded chrome package. 37,000 miles. \$19,900 obo. 708-362-9874

**For sale: 1998 Grand Marquis** 159k. Looks and runs great. Minor work need. New wheels and tires. Lansing. \$1500. 219-670-4914

**For sale: 2014 Chevy 1500 4x4.** V8 crew cab LTZ model. TX edition, metal rollup Tonneau cover, grey leather heated seats, loaded. 43,000 mi. 33,500. 815-879-8008

**For sale: 1999 Toyota Corolla,** runs great. No check engine light on. Everything works. \$1300 obo. 708-243-0347

**For sale: 1997 Mitsubishi Galant ES,** 155K. Needs some work, \$1000 firm. Call Keith. 708-333-0168

**For sale: 2000 Volkswagan Passat,** 42,000K miles \$3,500; Ford Mustang 2004 40th Anniv. \$3,500; Chrysler Pacifica 2004 Third row, \$3,500. 708-474-0957

**For sale: Ford Taurus, 48,000 miles.** Red exterior, grey interior, moonroof, some rust. Car sold a is, excellent condition, \$2,700. 708-631-9901

**For sale: 2003 Ford E150 Chateau** 7 pass van. Well maintained. 153k miles. 5.4 Liter. \$2,950. 708-331-1379

**For sale: 2014 Honda Accord EX-L** 4dr. sedan, moonroof, leather, burgundy, 24,000 mi, garage kept. \$16,900 obo. 630-926-5443

**For sale: 2015 Chevy Equinox** LS, Summit White, \$18,987. Call Bob 855-949-6000

**For sale: 2009 Chevy Sliverado** 1500 Work Truck Deep Ruby Metallic \$13,987. Call Bob 855-949-6000

**2005 Ford Five Hundred** 175,000 , over \$7,300 in repairs since 2014 by Ford Dealerships. Have receipts, runs great, \$2,500 firm. 773-879-4803

**For sale: 1999 Chevy S10 ext. 4x4,** \$2,800; 2004 Chevy Monte Carlo SS, Dale Earnhart edition, \$3,995; 2007 Volvo S60 AWD \$3,800; 2001 Blazer, \$1995. 708-474-0957

**For sale: 2008 Dodge Avenger** SE \$4,995. Call Bob 855-949-6000

**For sale: 2009 Chevy Impala** LT \$4,995. Call Bob 855-949-6000

**For sale: 2013 Kia Rio EX** Chestnut \$10,987. Call Bob 855-949-6000

**For sale: 2014 Chevy Cruze** LZT Green, \$15,495. Call Bob 855-949-6000

## Auto Parts

Two van tires, 215/65 R16, one new, one used, 90,000 miles warranty, \$50 for both. Michelin Defender XT. Glenwood, IL 708-758-1985

Floor mats Cadillac Escalade Weather Tech, fits 2007 to 2014 black, front, rear \$200 new, \$75 now, new, perfect. 708-841-8884

## Trucks

**For sale: Pine Ridge 1992** Mobile catering food truck. Allow you to prepare food for party's or feed customers. Equipped w/double sink, kitchen cabinets & grill. Call DeeDee. 708-251-5950

**Truck for sale: 2006 GMC** Cutaway, yellow truck. New tires, \$6,500. Call Ken. 708-331-0031

## Miscellaneous Items For Sale

**For sale: Oak and Hickory firewood.** Seasoned and dried. \$135 for 1/2 cart delivered. Call Phil. 219-742-3035

**Mattresses, \$79, \$89, \$129. Bunk beds, futons, daybeds.** Furniture for all rooms. EZ Credit to \$3,000. EZ Layaway. 708-371-3737, www.factorybedding.com Like us on facebook

**Elec. start machines:** Yard-machine snowblower, \$100; Yard machine snowblower \$150; 5HP snowblower, \$125, Ariens, 2-stage, 5 HP \$175; Jacobson snowblower, \$50; gas dryer, \$100; gas stove, white \$200. 708-715-2348

**For sale: New garage doors** sections only 16' & 9' wide 8' high light grey \$800 17' wide 7' high white \$500 ofo. 708-596-0600

**TOOLS** scaffolding ladders hand and power tools willing to deal Friday & Saturday 11-? 2007 Thornton Rd Lansing

**For sale: Piano Rudolph Wurlitz.** Piano and bench, \$600; portable refrigerator, \$30; computer desk \$20; TV stand, 2 shelves, \$20. 708-394-3211 after 6pm.

**Kenmore white counter top** microwave oven, 1.6 cu. ft., 1100 watts, excellent condition, with operating manual. Gently used. \$40. 708-895-2691

**NOIZ black coat, Large, \$60.** Men's pullover sweater Size 4XL, \$10. Reversible Nike Lady's vest, green/white, \$10. Lansing. 317-760-3414

Child's camouflage boots, size 4, \$10. Girl's size 12 Green satin gown, matching hand made purse, \$40. Lansing. 317-760-3414

Christmas glasses, mugs, \$10. Christmas decorations, \$5. Dozen stemmed light green glasses \$20. Large Red enamel coffee Pot \$30. Lansing. 317-760-3414

Chest Freezer, 5 Cu. Ft. In great condition only \$99. Please call 219 791 9461

2 pair steel toe boots. size 9 brand new \$125.00 for both or \$65.00 for 1 pair. 219-895-0871

**TORO SNOWBLOWER** For Sale. 6.5 HP Electric Start - Good Condition \$50.00. 708-953-4152

American Pacific paneling Rustic Pine 7 sheets NEW \$120 708 596 0600 call or text

Gorilla rolling scaffolding 2' X 4' good condition \$50 call or text 708 596 0600

Werner 20' extension ladder excellent condition \$125 have 2 call or text 708 596 0600

Set of (2) table lamps black wrought iron 31" tall with beige shades like new \$40/Set Call or text for photos 219-644-6831

Six oak kitchen chairs, \$40 ea./B.O. Oak kitchen table, \$50/B.O. Curio cabinet, \$50/B.O. All like new. Lansing. 708-769-8558

\*\*\*\*\*

Golden Opportunities 2018 Chicagoland South Suburban edition. Dining, entertainment, sports, retail, local coupon book, 31st anniversary, \$25. 708-670-7071

Christmas items: 1980s Christmas tree, never used. Big lighted Christmas wreath. Lighted Christmas houses. Misc. Christmas items. Make offers. 708-895-7855

Womens 1X Christmas sweater, blue CJB \$10; black leather jacket, size PS \$10; womens clothing, S-2X, 25 cents-\$10. 708-877-6157

Western collector prints in oak frames, 22 1/4 x 28 1/2, \$30 ea or 2 for \$50; large bulletin board \$10. 708-877-6157

Womens black shoes SAS brand, 10WW, \$30; Christmas angel white ceramic candle holder, \$5; tv converter boxes, \$40 ea. 708-877-6157

# SEARCHABILITY NOW AVAILABLE Online classifieds

Last month, The Lansing Journal added a Classifieds page to our website: [thelansingjournal.com/news/classifieds/](http://thelansingjournal.com/news/classifieds/)

The main advantage of online classifieds can be summarized in one word: Searchability.

Online shoppers are used to being able to type in exactly what they're searching for and having those customized search results delivered in seconds. Our online classifieds offer the same convenience.

**Shoppers:** Are you looking for a car? Or home services? Or a unique antique? Are you looking for a new job? Browse our online classifieds,

and find exactly what you need.

**Sellers:** Are you trying to sell unwanted knick-knacks? Do you offer a service that people need to know about? Does your business need to hire more employees? Online classifieds are a great way to advertise services or to attract potential job applicants.

Placing an ad is easy with our new online interface—you type up your message, edit as necessary, and pay with a credit card from your computer or mobile device. Give it a try!

Get started for only \$15 at [thelansingjournal.com/news/classifieds/](http://thelansingjournal.com/news/classifieds/)

## CLASSIFIEDS, cont.

Mayfair china, white w/green trim, 12 place settings, serving plates, bowls, gravy, coffee, s&p, butter, cream & sugar, \$30. 708-877-6157

Afghans and throws, \$10-\$75; womens new wool coat, paid \$175, asking \$60; womens clothing small-2X, 25 cents -\$10. 708-877-6157

Folding chairs, black with gray padded cushions, six \$45; Mikasa footed cake plate, \$10; Christmas serving plates, \$10 ea. 708-877-6157

Oil painting, 23" x 35", gold toned frame, gazebo with floral trimmed brick walkway, \$50. 708-877-6157

Misc. for sale: genuine lamb fur hat, Cossack style, warm, exquisitely made, unique \$95.00, Hoover electric broom, \$19.00. 708-645-4245

Truck/Van Running Boards like new \$250. 219-730-3370

Electric blanket, Kohls: queen, dual controls, \$30; Even Flo car seat: \$25; shop vacuum 2 HP, 5 gallon, \$15, all like new. 708-895-7855

For sale: Wood burning fireplace base, 5ftx5ft ceramic tile with metal border, fireproof backing, very heavy. Brand new never used, paid \$450, sell for \$250. 708-877-6387

Have Santa and his 3 elves climb a red 48" x 4" ladder on your Christmas tree, sits on branches \$10. 708-877-6157

White ceramic angel candle holder \$5; snowmen candle holder (Cracker Barrel) \$10; 13" round Christmas platter \$10; 15 1/2" oval plater \$10. 708-877-6157

Never worn ladies wool coat, zipper off slightly to side, studs on shoulders, misses size large, beige, paid \$175, asking \$60. 708-877-6157

2 pair steel toe boots, size 9, brand new, \$120 for both or \$64 for 1 pair. 219-895-0871

Heavy duty log splitter (parts only) with trailer minus engine. 219-730-3370

Deer skin jacket, natural color, hip length small fringes, beads, Cody, WY \$125; black leather mens bomber jacket, med. \$125. Picts. avail. 708-715-3022

Red Ryder BB rifle, \$45; Fanner cap pistol \$35; 10 Zane Grey hard covers \$50. Picts avail. 708-715-3022

Sofa sleeper with good mattress, \$25; recliner chair \$25. 708-862-4495

Christmas gifts, new, \$10, slow cooker, electric skillet, Pyrex bowls, rolling cooler, carving set, roasting set, silver luggage, \$50. 708-210-1542

Brand new "Copper Chef" 4 piece pan set; also brand new "Bacon Boss". Hobart 219-617-8583

Exercise machine: Tony Little's Gazelle Freestyle Elite: great Xmas gift, works whole body. Can deliver to front door. Glenwood 708-758-1985

Two van tires 215/65 R16 one new, one used, 90,000 mile warranty, \$50 for both. Michelin Defender XT. Glenwood IL 708-758-1985

"Emeril" 3 quart, 1.5 quart pots with pouring spouts and 3 quart frying pan, all 3 have glass lids, never used. 219-617-8583

Selling Golden Opportunities entertainment books. NW Indiana and So. Suburbs, Illinois. 100's discount coupons, fine dining, fast food, sports, services. Discount coupon at Queen Elenas. 708-917-6829

George Foreman grill, Model GR1212, 19"x13"x6 1/4" two drip trays, 1440W wht. minor discolor in rear, \$13 obo. 219-617-0611

Beautiful shiny swirled marble like table 3x5 and 4 black vinyl chairs, perfect condition, bought 10/16 \$400, now \$15. 708-941-3283

Beautiful white leather desk chair, padded arms, swivel wheeled chrome base, bought 10/16 \$250, now \$75, perfect cond. 708-941-3283

Beautiful Berne matching sofa (80L, 34H, 36W) and love seat (60L, 34H, 36W) in olive green, like new, hardly used. Matching lime green love seat (60L) and sofa (84L) must see to appreciate! 708-448-5672

Free: regulation basketball hoop and backboard, must remove. 708-448-5672

Lighted plastic Santa Claus 40" tall, \$10, 30" tall \$8, 14" tall \$5, entire family of three \$20. 773-785-7247

Table top lamp, brass look finish, white shade \$10; wooden calendar w/extra squares for all holidays & birthdays, \$25. 708-877-6157

Official Police caps from New York. NYPD on front, American Flag on side, \$6 ea. new! 708-333-7432

Chicago Cubs shirt #1 Fukudome size med., brand new \$9; Donald Trum bobble head, \$10. 708-333-7432

1 Chiro bobble head \$10; Tiger Woods bobble head \$8; Andrew Jones bobble head \$6. 708-333-7432

Decorate fireplace screen with winter scene 38" tall, three sections wide, very nice, \$20. 773-785-7247

Toro Power Curve electric snow blower Model 38025, exc. cond. \$70. 773-785-7247

Toro electric shovel, model S-120, 12 inches wide, perfect for small area and steps, \$35. 773-785-7247

Large Santa picture 30 x 30 \$25. 708-418-3155

Exercise machine: Tony Little's Gazelles Freestyke Elite: great Xmas's gift, works whole boyd, can deliver to front door. Glenwood. 708-758-1985

Xmas stuff: 12 Coke Xmas glasses, circa 1970s \$35; musical Santa car, plays songs, from Fields, new \$12. 708-460-8308

Xmas stuff: gold tree topper with lights \$5; 4 dozen pink non break ornaments, uSA \$5 ea; new 3 ft tree \$10. 708-460-8308

Nascar dressed barbie doll 12", new, boxed \$25; ceramic 7" pumpkin w/lid \$12; Little Wizard kerosene lantern, red glass \$65. 708-460-8308

Winter stuff: new bent handle snow shovel \$20; steel scoop shovel \$15; mens ski gloves, blue \$5. 708-460-8308

Flotation device for young kids \$10; large car litter box, covered, with extras, \$15; new air pump for auto/home \$20. 708-460-8308

Shark rotator powered lift away vacuum, used only a few times, all the attachments, never used, \$300 for all. 219-617-8583

## OBITUARIES

## ESTRADA

A Funeral Mass for Adolph Estrada was offered on November 29, 2017 from St. John the Baptist Church with Rev. Edward Romanski officiating.

Mr. Estrada was born October 14, 1953 and died November 26, 2017

He was the husband of Dora (nee Zuazua) Estrada; father of Adolfo (Sandra) Estrada, Sandy (Miguel) Rodriguez, and Gerald Estrada; grandfather of Brianna, Adolfo, Bianca, Ayleen, Brayden, Adam, Andy, Alyssa, Aydelle, Javier, Layla, Elyse, and Selena

Interment was at St. Casimir Cemetery. Arrangements were entrusted to Thornridge Funeral Home (Janusz Family Funeral Service).

## JABAAY

A funeral service for Walita Agnes Jabaay (nee Swets) was held Friday, December 1, 2017 at Smits Funeral Home in Dyer, IN with Rev. Bill Sytsma and Rev. Daniel Svendsen officiating.

Mrs. Jabaay was born January 22, 1928 and passed away November 29, 2017. Wife of the late Cornelius Jabaay. Mother of Randy Jabaay. Sister of Minnie (late Eugene) Van Kanegan and Arie (Yvonne) Swets; Preceded in death by eleven brothers and sisters.

Interment was at Oak Ridge Cemetery, Lansing, IL. Arrangements were entrusted to Smits Funeral Home, Dyer, IN.

## KELLY

Michael James Kelly, age 57 of Lansing, Illinois, passed away Thursday, November

23, 2017. He is survived by his loving mother Marie A. Kelly, Siblings Mary (John) Sufie, John (Lisa) Kelly, and Lynn (Stephen) Thate. Loving uncle of: Bryan (Patricia) Sufie, Krista Sufie, Nicole Thate, Elyse Kelly, Erik Thate, Sean Kelly, Jacquelyn Thate, Erin Kelly, Amanda Thate, Shannon Kelly and great nephew Jayden Sufie, and godfather to: Krista, Jacquelyn and Shannon. Michael was preceded in death by his father John Kelly Sr., paternal grandparents; Michael and Clara Kelly and maternal grandparents; James and Mary Gagliano.

Funeral services for Mike were held Saturday, December 2, 2017, at Schroeder-Lauer Funeral Home. Closing prayers began at 9:30 AM, then proceeding to St. Ann Catholic Church, 3010 Ridge Road, Lansing, IL, for a 10:00 AM Mass of Christian Burial.

Mike was a member of the American Legion Riders, Lansing Post 697 (see photos below). Mike was also a member of IBEW and Electrical Industry Local 697.

Mike was a friend to all and was there when his family and friends needed a helping hand. He was loved by many and he will be deeply missed. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations can be made in Mike's name to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. www.schroederlauer.com.

## KOEL

A Funeral Mass for Melvin J. Koel will be offered on December 7, 2017 from St. Elizabeth Seton Church with Rev. William Corcoran officiating.

Mr. Koel was born March 19, 1931 and died December 1, 2017. He was the husband of

the late Eleanor M. (nee Banaszak); uncle of many nieces and nephews.

Interment will be at Resurrection Cemetery. Arrangements are entrusted to Thornridge Funeral Home (Janusz Family Funeral Service).

## LABADIE

A funeral service for Franklin O. LaBadie was held Monday, December 4, 2017 at Oak Glen United Reformed Church in Lansing, IL with Rev. John Vermeer officiating.

Mr. LaBadie was born October 1, 1929 and passed away November 29, 2017. Husband of the late Shirley LaBadie (nee Koster). Father of Sharon, Charlotte, Charles, Faye Frank Jr. (Kim) LaBadie and Scott (Laurie) LaBadie, 4 grandchildren and one great-grandchild. Brother of Bob, Dee and Alma, and the late Marion, Jane, Audrey, Bert, and William.

Interment was at Oak Ridge Cemetery, Lansing, IL. Arrangements entrusted to Smits, DeYoung-Vroegh Funeral Home, South Holland, IL.

## PAMMER

A Funeral Service for William F. Pammer Jr. will be held on December 7, 2017 at Thornridge Funeral Home with Deacon Tim Springer officiating.

Mr. Pammer was born April 27, 1948 and died December 2, 2017. He was the husband of Brenda (nee Simnick); father of Ryan (Nicole) Pammer; brother of Joyce (Daniel) Falardeau and Jeffrey (Barbara) Pammer; son-in-law of Iva Kozina; brother-in-law of Frank (Debbie) Cogswell and Roy (Sandy)

Cogswell; uncle of many nieces and nephews. Interment will be private. Arrangements are entrusted to Thornridge Funeral Home (Janusz Family Funeral Service).

## SCHWANTES

A funeral mass for Maxine L. Schwantes (nee Mastey) was held on Thursday, November 30, 2017 at St. Mary Catholic Church in Crown Point, IN with Rev. Patrick Kalich officiating.

Mrs. Schwantes was born July 8, 1959 and passed away November 24, 2017. Wife of Robert E. Schwantes Jr. Mother of Benjamin Egelske. Sister of Jayne (late Robert) Conner, James (Rhonda) Mastey, Audrey (Jack) Allen, late Frank (late Margaret) Mastey, Anita (Craig) Labus, Phyllis (Steven) Boling, Eileen (late William) Kelly, Randall (Sue) Mastey, and Garry (Linda) Mastey.

Interment was private. Arrangements were entrusted to Smits Funeral Home, Dyer, IN.

## VELAZQUEZ

A funeral service for Jose Luz Velazquez was held Saturday, December 2, 2017 at Smits, DeYoung-Vroegh Funeral Home with Rev. Ismael Vargas officiating.

Mr. Velazquez was born May 5, 1941 and passed away November 28, 2017. Husband of Maria D. Velazquez (nee Alatorre). Father of 7 children and 16 grandchildren.

Interment was at Washington Memory Gardens, Homewood, IL. Arrangements were entrusted to Smits, DeYoung-Vroegh Funeral Home, South Holland, IL.



MICHAEL JAMES KELLY: The American Legion Riders escorted Michael James Kelly from closing prayers at Schroeder-Lauer Funeral Home to a Mass of Christian Burial at St. Ann Catholic Church on Saturday, December 2, 2017. (Photos: Dan Bovino)

# Safety tips for mailing holiday packages

BY PATRICIA MUHAMMAD

LANSING, Ill. (November 2017) - During the holiday season, the United States Postal Service processes millions of pieces of mail across the country and around the world. Over the next few weeks, thousands of holiday shoppers will stand in post offices waiting to send packages and parcels near and far. In this season of excitement, people can overlook last-minute details and wind up mailing poorly sealed boxes. These unnoticed, minor details can result in big losses or stolen items.

Beverly Howard, Customer Relations Communications Coordinator for the Central Illinois District Post Office in Bedford Park, offered these safety tips to help people avoid the hassle and heartache of losing items due to improperly sealed packages:

- 1. Free boxes.** "We have our priority products service boxes that are free," said Howard, "and they are sturdy."
- 2. Right-sizing.** Howard recommends that customers bring their merchandise to the post office, so they can select the proper size box. A box that is too small won't have enough room for protective filler; a box that is too large will cost more money to mail.
- 3. Packing tape.** Yolanda Askew, Supervisor for the Lansing Post Office, offered this advice for sealing boxes: "When mailing packages, it is very important that your box is sturdy. Use mailing tape as opposed to Scotch tape." Masking tape and duct tape are also not recommended because they are not



- 4. Labeling.** Howard pointed out that when sending fragile items, customers should write "Fragile" on the package to ensure proper handling. Bubble wrap and small Styrofoam peanuts can help protect fragile items during transit.
- 5. Hazards.** Askew warned against mailing hazardous chemicals. She also added that when customers mail liquid items, the items should be well insulated to avoid leaks. "When leaks occur, the post office will inspect the box," she said.

## TRACKING OPTIONS

Late packages can be disappointing or frustrating for customers. Howard said if you are expecting a package

and have the tracking information, call customer service at 1-800-275-8777 or visit [www.usps.com](http://www.usps.com).

Howard also recommends that customers use Informed Delivery Service, which is a tracking system that monitors the delivery of mail.

"With proper labeling on the packaging, customers are now able to use their smartphones to check to see when to expect the arrival of their package, and they can determine the delivery of the package."

Customers can also ask their local post office to redeliver an item when someone is going to be home, or they can come to the post office to receive their package.

## MILLIONS OF PACKAGES

Howard commented on the volume of mail that will pass through the Central District Post Office over the holidays: "We're anticipating more than 15 billion pieces of mail that will go forth during the holiday season. At least 850 million packages will cross through our processing territory."

The Central Illinois District Post Office handles zip codes for the south suburbs, including Lansing, as well as the western suburbs, Rockford, and Peoria.

The Lansing Post Office is located at 18125 Roy Street in Lansing.

The Lansing, Illinois, Post Office on Roy Street is part of the Central Illinois District territory and is a good resource during the holiday season. (Photo: Melanie Jongsma)



# Breakfast with Santa this Saturday

Lansing Area Chamber event is fun for kids, and good for the community

INFORMATION PROVIDED BY THE LANSING AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

LANSING, Ill. (December 4, 2017) - On Saturday, December 9, the Lansing Area Chamber of Commerce invites the community to Breakfast With Santa. The event is sponsored by the Copper Muggers and hosted by T. F. South High School (18500 Burnham Avenue in Lansing). Tickets are only \$5.00.

All proceeds earned from the Chamber Breakfast With Santa will go to the Family Giving Program.

"Not many people know about this program," says Amy Todd, Executive Director of the Chamber. "Each year we select some families from Lansing that are in special need during the holiday season." The Lansing Chamber works with Social Workers at all of the Lansing schools in an effort to help at least one family from each school.

"The program has total anonymity," assures Todd. "We are only given information such as age, sex, sizes, and interests of the children.

The Chamber then uses our donations to purchase everything we possibly can for each child. Those items are returned to the school social workers, and they get them to the parents. Last year we were able to help 20 children from the community."

"We would love to be able to increase the number of children we can help this year," says Todd.

Breakfast With Santa is the Chamber's largest fundraiser for the Family Giving Program. Lansing residents and businesses are encouraged to help by participating in the pancake breakfast. Ticket sales are one source of revenue, but additional donations are also welcome.

Individuals and businesses who are interested in donating toward the Family Giving Program should contact Lansing Area Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Amy Todd at 708-474-4170 or [director@chamberoflansing.com](mailto:director@chamberoflansing.com).

In addition to the good that will

come as a result of income generated, Todd encourages families to simply have fun breakfasting with Santa. "Bring your camera and wish list," she says. The Chamber is providing goody bags for Santa to give to children who visit him.

## BREAKFAST DETAILS:

- T. F. South High School
- 8:00-11:00am
- Tickets: \$5.00
- Proceeds support the Family Giving Program

**BACKYARD Que**  
18155 ROY STREET  
LANSING IL 60438  
708-940-0234

<p><b>DAILY SPECIALS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• BBQ pulled chicken sandwich</li> <li>• BBQ pulled pork sandwich</li> <li>• BBQ pulled pork nachos &amp; cheese</li> <li>• Smoked brisket chili</li> </ul>	<p><b>HOLIDAY SPECIALS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 16-25# Smoked Turkey</li> <li>• Half and Whole Honey-Smoked Ham</li> </ul> <p><b>PLACE YOUR HOLIDAY ORDER BY 12/20/17!</b></p>
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**WE CATER TO YOUR NEEDS—COME TASTE OUR REPUTATION**

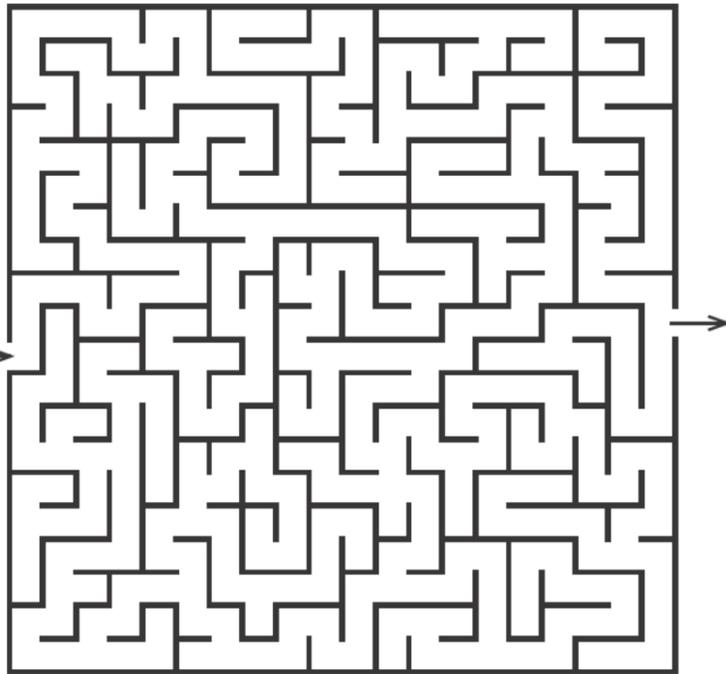
# On This Date - December 7

- 1542 - Mary Stuart, Queen of Scots, is born
- 1598 - Giovanni Bernini, Italian baroque sculptor, is born
- 1810 - Theodor Schwann, German scientist who theorized living things are made of cells, is born
- 1905 - Gerard Kuiper, Dutch/US astronomer who discovered the moons of Uranus & Neptune, is born
- 1941 - Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor
- 1945 - The microwave oven is patented
- 1956 - Larry Bird, American basketball star, is born

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SOLVE THE MAZE



## Word Search

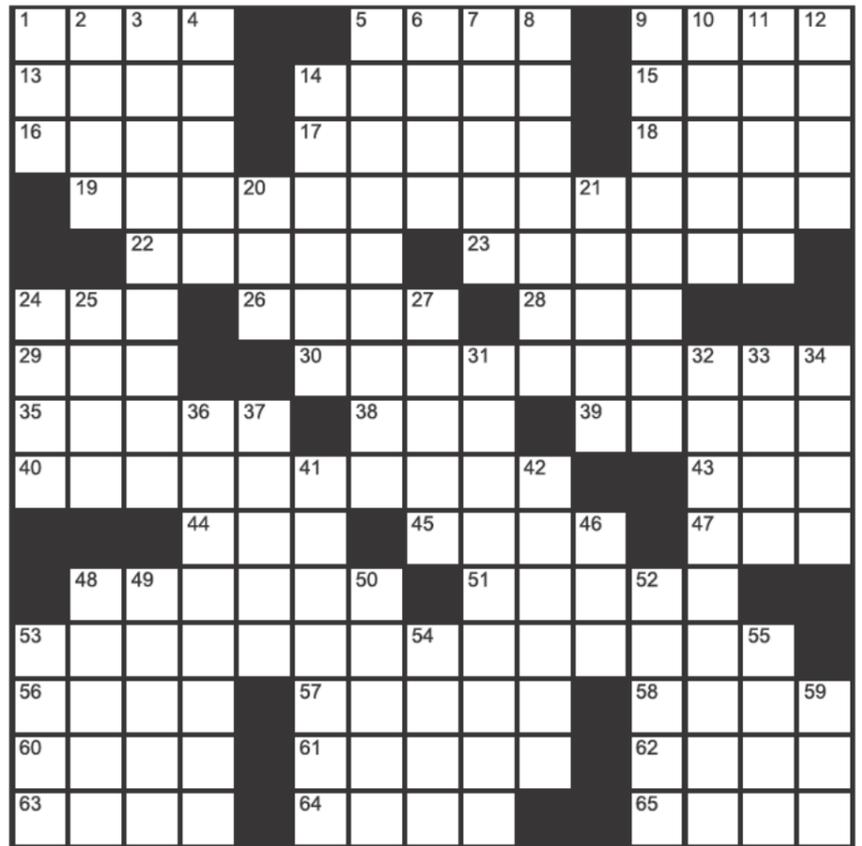
T O R Q U E R E D N E F A C D C  
 L R E W O P E S R O H C A D D Y  
 E K A R B R O G M U F F L E R L  
 B W I N D S H I E L D I M E H I  
 T R F A S T C R A Y O N L O O N  
 A E H V G M E F D C E I D C T D  
 E T N L N P I O D O O R G A P E  
 S S K I M C B S E P F U I U I R  
 I D F U G I L L S G I L P X L E  
 D A B F N N A B C I L C Y E L N  
 E O S U S P E N S I O N K S A I  
 P R E D R A O B G N I N N U R L  
 A A D W T F A H S M A C Z V P D  
 N E A N H A T C H B A C K C T A  
 E G N L A I T N E R E F F I D E  
 L E X A X L E G U O R B T R U H

### Automotive

- |           |               |              |              |            |
|-----------|---------------|--------------|--------------|------------|
| Coupe     | Unibody       | Suspension   | Windshield   | Hemi       |
| Roadster  | Bumper        | Spoiler      | Engine       | Horsepower |
| Sedan     | Door          | Brake        | Torque       | Seatbelt   |
| Hatchback | Sidepanel     | Axle         | Camshaft     | Headliner  |
| Pickup    | Fender        | Pillar       | Differential | Taillight  |
| Van       | Running board | Gear         | Cylinder     |            |
| SUV       |               | Transmission | Muffler      |            |

Engagements, Weddings, Anniversaries, Births, Birthdays, and Military announcements are free and run in *The Shopper* each week. Pictures can be returned; include a self-addressed stamped envelope. Announcements are also accepted by e-mail at [general@myshopper.biz](mailto:general@myshopper.biz). Deadline for all announcements is Friday at 4:00 p.m. for the following Wednesday's issue. *The Shopper* reserves the right to edit all content.

## CROSSWORD



### Across

1. "-zolic" things
5. Come together
9. "Oh, \_\_\_!"
13. Bowed
14. Strategy board game
15. And others, for short
16. \_\_\_ carotene
17. Circle
18. Honky-\_\_\_
19. In a tactful manner
22. It's a snap
23. Not quite
24. Alias (abbrev.)
26. Benefit
28. Oolong, for one
29. \_\_\_ and outs
30. Houses and land (2 wds)
35. "Likewise"
38. "The \_\_\_ Daba Honeymoon"
39. "Rabbit food"
40. Cumulonimbus, e.g. (2 wds)
43. "... \_\_\_ he drove out of sight"
44. \_\_\_ blood group system
45. Highlands hillside
47. Ballpoint, e.g.

### Down

1. "Chicago" lyricist
2. Bassoon, e.g.
3. Italian appetizer
4. Kind of infection
5. Resembling marble
6. Goya's "Duchess of \_\_\_"
7. Forger
8. Gorge
9. Information about information
10. Bikini, e.g.
11. Hairy-chested
12. Excessive drinker
14. Owl, e.g.

20. Chop (off)
21. Salad green
24. Boosts
25. Jersey, e.g.
27. Shish \_\_\_
31. Those honored for great achievements
32. The first transfinite cardinal (mathematics)
33. Container weight
34. "Our Time In \_\_\_" (10,000 Maniacs album)
36. Excerpts advertising new films
37. 18th-century card game
41. Check
42. 1973 Elton John hit
46. Long, long time
48. Served as helmsman
49. Had a bug
50. Abundance
52. About
53. Spanish appetizer
54. Archaeological site
55. \_\_\_ rock, e.g. David Bowie
59. "Star Trek" rank: Abbr.

## SUDOKU

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

Fill in the blank squares in the grid, making sure that every row, column and 3x3 box includes all digits from 1 through 9.

ANSWERS

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

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# A Wonderful Life: the Musical— a wonderful adaptation

Holiday classic translates well to stage



Above: Donna Reed and Jimmy Stewart in the 1946 classic, *It's a Wonderful Life* (Photo: Wikimedia)

Left: David Perkovich (center) as Clarence longing for angel wings. (Photo: Michael Brosilow, © Theatre at the Center)

Below: Andrés Enriquez (left) conveys Ernie the cab driver in a way that evokes Frank Faylen from the film version. And David Sajewich brings enough Jimmy Stewart into his role as George Bailey to evoke nostalgia without forcing comparison. (Photo: Michael Brosilow, © Theatre at the Center)

BY MELANIE JONGSMA

MUNSTER, Ind. (November 19, 2017) - There's risk involved any time you dabble with the classics, and I went to *A Wonderful Life: the Musical* somewhat prepared for disappointment. After all, how could a couple of local suburban actors (David Sajewich and Allison Sill) compare with Jimmy Stewart and Donna Reed? And how could *It's a Wonderful Life*—a flawlessly written and beautifully acted movie—be turned into a musical? Why mess with perfection?

So I was pleasantly delighted to find myself agreeing with Artistic Director Linda Fortunato's assessment: "All the charm, heart, and humanity of the film are brought to the stage in this musical adaptation." *A Wonderful Life* in Munster is reminiscent enough of the Frank Capra classic to evoke nostalgia, but different enough to stand on its own merits.

## SIMILARITIES

For example, David Sajewich takes the role of George Bailey, and his physicality and some of his mannerisms are quite Stewart-like. And the sets and costumes easily put one in mind of the Bedford Falls we saw on television every night during 1980s Decembers. In fact, Andrés Enriquez could easily pass for the original Ernie the cab driver.

David Perkovich's Clarence is similar to the one Henry Travers made famous. But *A Wonderful Life: the Musical* includes a song—"Wings"—that allows Perkovich to convey some personality in a way that is just campy enough to be fun, yet very sweet. The staging at Theatre at the Center for that number is delightful, and the angel costumes—white dresses long enough to hide

the feet—make the angels seem to float around the stage.

## DIFFERENCES

But there are some necessary differences between the movie and the stage play, and those provide enough distance to keep audiences from making a direct comparison. When George saves his brother Harry's life, it's an anecdote rather than a reenactment—and it's a car accident rather than a sledding mishap. There's no retractable dance floor, so George and Mary do not end up in the pool. And the critical suicide that Clarence saves George from? That involves a train intersection rather than a bridge. These scenes are iconic in the movie, and by reimagining them for the musical, writer Sheldon Harnick removes the nostalgia and redirects our focus to what's important about those scenes.

## TICKET INFORMATION

*A Wonderful Life: the Musical* is at Munster's Theatre at the Center until December 23. It's a fun adaptation of the classic Frank Capra movie that might give you and your family a fresh appreciation for an old favorite.

Performances are 2:00pm Wednesdays and Thursdays; 7:30pm Fridays; 3:00pm and 7:30pm on Saturdays; 2:30pm on Sundays; and select Thursday and Sunday evenings. Individual ticket prices range from \$40–\$44.

To purchase tickets directly from the Box Office, call 219-836-3255. Group discounts are available for groups of 11 or more, and gift certificates are also available.

Theatre at the Center is located within The Center for Visual and Performing Arts, 1040 Ridge Road, Munster, Indiana.



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Above and left: Governor Rauner invited municipalities throughout Illinois to participate in a 365-day celebration of Illinois' bicentennial, beginning with a flag-raising ceremony on Monday, December 4, 2017, featuring the Illinois Bicentennial Flag. Lansing staff members and elected officials gathered at noon to raise the flag and kick off the year-long observance of this state milestone.

"Your Flag Raising Ceremony will help kickoff a yearlong celebration that pays tribute to the people, places, and things that are being BORN, BUILT, & GROWN here every single day," the governor's letter explained. "Our Bicentennial will showcase Illinois' influence on American history and culture, achievement and invention, business and art." A complimentary Illinois Bicentennial Flag was included with the letter.

The Illinois Bicentennial flag will be flown under the Illinois State flag during the year-long celebration. (Photos: Matthew J. Splant)



You don't have to be a member of the Lansing Country Club in order to take advantage of some of the services they provide. Party rooms are available for family gatherings, and Chef Dan Wrenn (pictured here) will prepare culinary delights for special events. Contact the Lansing Country Club for all your holiday celebrations now and throughout 2018—18600 Wentworth Avenue in Lansing, 708-474-7550. (Photo provided)

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UPDATE FROM THE VILLAGE OF LANSING

## Yard waste pickup extended

INFORMATION PROVIDED BY THE VILLAGE OF LANSING

LANSING, Ill. (December 4, 2017) - The Village of Lansing administration has worked out an arrangement with Homewood Disposal for leaf and yard waste pickup for the rest of 2017. Leaf/landscape waste collections for this season will be extended beyond the original scavenger services agreement deadline date and will now be collected through Friday, December 15.

"We sincerely hope this will benefit our residents and allow them to remove any remaining yard debris from

their property," says the Village of Lansing Facebook page. "All yard waste, including leaves, should be placed in your toter with the GREEN lid or in brown paper yard waste bags and then placed where your weekly garbage pickup is conducted."

