

# THE LANSING JOURNAL

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## Lansing women join Chicago march

Marching and voting are two ways women are making their voices heard



Above: Lansing resident Jadyn Newman (lower left corner) captures a shot of the Women's March in Chicago. Jadyn attended with her mom, Dominique Newman, and two friends. The four women attended last year's Chicago March as well.

Left: Dominique Newman takes a Women's March selfie.

Below, from left: Janiya Akbar, Jadyn Newman, and Isis Yadron—all juniors at TF South—show off their signs.

(Photos: Dominique Newman)



BY KATIE ARVIA

CHICAGO, Ill. (January 20, 2018) - At least four Lansing residents attended this year's March to the Polls, the second Chicago Women's March since President Donald Trump took office. Dominique Newman, Jadyn Newman, Janiya Akbar, and Isis Yadron all participated in last year's march as well. Jadyn, Janiya, and Isis are all students at Thornton Fractional South High School.

The four Lansingites were part of a throng of more than 300,000 protesters who gathered at Congress Parkway and Columbus Drive in Millennium Park. With an

increase in participants from last year, the Chicago Women's March was one of the most highly attended marches across the country. Cook County State's Attorney Kim Foxx, Cook County Commissioner Bridget Gainer, and Illinois Attorney General Lisa Madigan, among others, made appearances at this year's Chicago March.

### MARCHING FOR OUR DAUGHTERS

"This year, my daughter and her friends were my primary inspiration [for attending the march]," Dominique, who is Jadyn's mother,

See "Women's March," on page 5

## Lansing's Roundball Classic

It's more than just basketball

BY MELANIE JONGSMA

LANSING, Ill. (February 8, 2018) - For the ninth year, fifth-grade basketball players from six Lansing grade schools are dribbling, passing, and shooting their way through a friendly competition with a broader meaning. The Lansing Roundball Classic tournament rewards athleticism, teaches teamwork, and builds community.

This year the boys teams from Coolidge, Heritage, Lansing Christian, Oak Glen, and Reavis are competing for the team trophy. Halftime of every game

See "Roundball," continued on page 18

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issue—

♥ Why Blacks are choosing Lansing (page14)

♥ Lansing Voices: We Love Lansing (page10)

♥ Are Lansing's vehicle sticker fees going up? (page 6)

# A Lansing couple's love story: Through the

BY CARRIE STEINWEG

LANSING, Ill. (February 2018) - We've arrived in the month of romance. For some, Valentine's Day is a time to reach out to someone they may have secretly admired. For others, it's an opportunity to celebrate their love and relationship.

Every couple has a unique story of how they met and fell in love. Cindi Krusza and Abi Duran shared theirs

with us.

## THEY MET IN MEXICO

The two met in Mexico in 1996 on the day that Cindi arrived for a two-year mission trip. After driving by car from Chicago to the town of Tenancingo with her roommate, they arrived at the home where they would be staying. A church gathering was happening. Abi was in attendance at that gathering, but Cindi said she was so tired and

foggy from the drive she doesn't remember him being there.

They met again soon after and seemed to know early on that they were a good match. Although Cindi was not supposed to date while she was there, she and Abi couldn't stay separated. They fell in love over the two years she was in Mexico. As it neared time for her to return home, they talked about marriage.

"We were married in the United States because if we married in Mexico, the visa process would have been a lot longer and more complicated. Abi came to the U.S. with a fiancé visa," said Cindi. "When we applied, we didn't know when he would actually receive his visa after applying, but we had 90 days from the receipt to get married. It made wedding planning a little complicated. It was kind of crazy and very stressful."

The two wed in 1999 and decided to reside in Lansing where Cindi's large family is from. (She is one of nine children.) Abi's family in Mexico includes eight siblings and three half-siblings. Cindi is a junior high Spanish teacher and Abi works as a senior financial analyst in Chicago. They are the parents of a 15-year-old son and 12-year-old daughter.

## LOVE STORY Q&A

### What were your thoughts the first time you met your spouse?

Abi: I thought she was pretty and she seemed reserved.

Cindi: The first time I met him was the first night I arrived in Mexico. My roommate and I had driven from Chicago with a truck full of belongings. I didn't think anything about him. I was scared and exhausted.

### Tell us about your first date.



"This is one of my favorite pictures of us," says Cindi. "It's right before we got married. We used to do a lot of hiking when we were dating. I was a poor missionary and he was a poor college student."

**Thank you!**  
We appreciate your support of community news coverage.

(We know you didn't do it for the accolades, but we wouldn't feel right if we didn't express our gratitude.)

**These fine people made contributions during January 2018:**  
**DON AND MARY BETH PALKA**  
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THE

# LANSING JOURNAL

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# years and across the miles, Cindi and Abi are “together forever”



Abi: We went for a long walk of about 8 hours that started at 4:00 a.m. This is a Holy Thursday tradition of my town, there is a pilgrimage to a religious site in a town that is about 11 miles away.

Cindi: We met in Mexico. I was

working as a missionary and was not supposed to date “the locals.” Abi was just about the only person I could speak any English with. We became friends. He invited me to go on a one-day pilgrimage to a town near ours to celebrate Easter. I was hooked.

### When did you know you were falling in love?

Abi: I used to take the bus to commute. After a long day at work, I went back home, and she was waiting for me at the bus stop, when I saw her I thought I saw an angel. I was in love.

Cindi: I realized when I came home for Christmas and all I wanted to do was go back to Mexico so I could be with him.

### Tell us about the proposal.

Abi: I never proposed, we just decided to get married. Our conversations were more about our future together so we knew we were getting married.

Cindi: I agree with Abi, there was no official proposal. We just knew we were going to spend the rest of our lives together. We were both broke, and so I didn’t get an engagement ring until after we were married.

### Is there anything you would change about your relationship?

Abi: I wish we could live in Mexico.

Cindi: No. I think Abi might say that he would prefer to have stayed in Mexico instead of coming here to the United States. I tease him that he is the only Mexican in the United States that really doesn’t want to be here.

### What advice would you give to younger couples about how to have a successful marriage?

Abi: Marriage is not easy and requires work and patience—but it is worth every minute.

Cindi: Believe that marriage is forever. I think since Abi and I know that we will be together forever, we want to help each other become the best people we can be. They say to go into your marriage with your eyes wide open and then close them half way after you’re married—meaning, know what you are getting into and then let go of the things you discover that you didn’t realize beforehand. I think when you go into marriage, you are never 100% sure of what you are getting into. I have been pleasantly surprised!

# Helping Our Minors Excel

Founded by Detective Wilson Pierce, HOME prepares students for life

BY KATIE ARVIA

LANSING, Ill. (January 2018) - Helping Our Minors Excel (HOME) has been working with Lansing youth for nearly a decade. Founded in 2008 by Detective Wilson Pierce of the Lansing Police Department, HOME provides Lansing youth with various workshops, community service projects, and more.

HOME prepares students for life by implementing four cardinal principles:

1. Respect/responsibility
2. Education
3. Accountability
4. Perseverance

A nonprofit organization, HOME is designed to mentor children ages 10–18.

### CONNECTING

While working as a juvenile detective at TF South High School, Pierce noticed a disconnect between the students from each middle school. Because TF South is made up of students from both Memorial Junior High School and Heritage Middle School, many of the students did not know each other.

“You’re putting two groups of people together that don’t really know each other; they don’t like each other but they don’t know why,” Pierce explained. “The only reason they don’t know why is because they don’t interact.”

In an effort to unite the students, Pierce put together an event called Middle School Madness. Students from both Memorial and Heritage participated in events such as a three-point shootout, tug-of-war, and relay races. Pierce said it worked out beautifully.

Since then, HOME has received



Detective Wilson Pierce, above, founded HOME nearly 10 years ago. At right, Pierce and a helper are delivering supplies to help “Pack the Pantry.” HOME typically donates 100 boxes of food each year. (Photos provided)



the support of the school board, teachers, parents, Lansing Police Department, and even Mayor Eidam. The program has grown exponentially over the years, with plans to grow even more.

### SHOPPING

Last year, 60 kids participated in HOME’s third annual Shop with a Cop. Around Christmas, the children are given gift cards and go shopping with local police officers.

“The only stipulation we have with that is, [they] have to buy one gift for somebody else. Upon doing that, whatever [they] have left, [they] can use to buy themselves something,” Pierce said. “A lot of these kids end up spending the whole card on gifts for their parents.”

Walmart provides the shopping experience for HOME. Last year, an entire section of the store was set up just for the kids. Additionally, Walmart donated wrapping paper, cookies, and juice.

“Their employees as well as officers come out on their days off.

People in the community will come out and they will help wrap the gifts. ...The kids get to go home with them and put them under the tree,” Pierce said.

In addition to the annual Shop with a Cop, HOME provides a variety of workshops throughout the year. In the past, bullying, domestic abuse, and drugs have been topics of discussion presented by the states attorney. Channel 2 (CBS) and WGCI have presented workshops as well.

### GIVING BACK

Kids who are a part of the HOME program also give back to the community. Since 2009 they have been collecting nonperishable food items for the Lansing Food Pantry. On average, HOME has donated 100 boxes of food to the pantry each year.

“We have what’s called ‘Pack the Pantry.’ Because Thanksgiving and Christmas are so close together, the pantry is pretty much wiped out by the time Christmas comes,” Pierce explained. “It’s hard to

restock in such a short time, so we took it upon ourselves to collect for Christmas.”

Because 2018 marks HOME’s 10-year anniversary, Pierce hopes to do something big and keep growing the program. Someday, Pierce hopes that HOME will become a national program, like GREAT (Gang Resistance Education And Training) or DARE (Drug Abuse Resistance Education).

He encourages anyone who is interested in joining the HOME community to reach out, whether they are a kid or an adult. “Our doors are open to anybody who wants to be part of this organization. ...We want to help any kid that needs it,” Pierce said. “Our foundation is to help anybody and everybody.”

Helping Our Minors Excel, Inc.  
 PO Box 922  
 Lansing IL 60438  
 708-932-7860  
 Business hours are 8:00am–6:30pm M-F, 9:00am–2:00pm S-S.

# Schultz Insurance celebrates

## Real estate, postal service, dry goods, and insurance—Lansing's

BY CARRIE STEINWEG

This article is part of a series 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).

LANSING, Ill. (January 23, 2018) - Family businesses that go on from generation to generation are a rarity anymore. And those that succeed do so with a combination of hard work, family dedication, loyal customers, and an ability to adapt with the times.

Lansing has a few such businesses that have enjoyed longevity and continuous operation by family members. The one to do it the longest is Walter W. Schultz Insurance Agency. Founded January 23, 1923, Schultz just celebrated 95 years in business—all at the same Torrence Avenue location.

### ORIGINS

The business originated under

the name Charles C. Schultz & Sons. The building originally had two entrances, with different portions of the business on each side.

It was nearly 20 years before an employee outside the family joined the business. Millie Ogborn was hired July 9, 1942, and she still lives in her Lansing home near Lan-Oak Park. Ogborn would walk from her home every day to her job, where she started out as a postal clerk in the summer after her high school graduation.

She explained that Walter Schultz ran an insurance and real estate business in the south portion of the building as well as overseeing the Oak Glen Post Office and serving as Postmaster. It had been decades since the community of Oak Glen had been incorporated into Lansing, yet it still had its own post office until the 1950s, which was located in the Schultz building until 1951

and then moved down the street to Hatfield's Delicatessen. Originally the north portion of the building was a dry goods business run by his brother, George, that later transitioned to bottled gas and relocated.

### FOCUSING ON INSURANCE

In the late 1960s, the real estate business was discontinued, and the business concentrated fully on insurance. It was operated by Walter Schultz and his wife, Cherrie. Following Cherrie's death in 1991, the business was run by their daughter, Diane Abbott, and son-in-law, Norman Abbott. Today the business is owned by Norman and run by their daughter, Cheryl.

Cheryl began working at the business when she was 16 and started out doing the mail. Today she does all the accounting for the business as well as handling the computers/information technology. "I like working for myself and continuing

something that my grandfather started," she said.

### BIG CHANGES

She's seen the insurance business change quite a bit from when business was handled primarily on paper to everything being entered into computer. "The last ten years everyone wants to do everything online," she said.

Ogborn also saw big changes over her 37-year career at the agency. When she started, mail was dropped off by train at the Grand Trunk rail station in Oak Glen at 10:15 in the morning and brought back to her for sorting. She recalled people from Ripley's Believe It or Not visiting Lansing to record the only village of its size with two post offices.

In 1979, as computers were just being introduced in the business, Ogborn said that they initially complicated the work that she'd been doing. She could foresee that

## Lansing's Neighborhood Watch Meetings

### Police say meetings help decrease crime and increase pride

BY MELANIE JONGSMA

LANSING, Ill. (January 2018) - The Village of Lansing is home to about 28,000 people living in slightly less than eight square miles of geography. The Village has been divided into four beats by the Lansing Police Department, as shown in the map at right.

Each beat has a Neighborhood Watch meeting four times a year, led by a Lieutenant from the Lansing Police Department. Any Lansing resident can participate in any Neighborhood Watch meeting—renters, homeowners, landlords, and businesses are welcome.

Lt. Scott Bailey says Neighborhood Watches are important because they have been shown to dramatically decrease the number of burglaries and related offenses by rebuilding community connections and encouraging neighbors to look out for one another. "Neighborhood Watches help build pride in community," says Bailey.

At a typical Neighborhood Watch meeting, the officer serving as Team Leader will distribute a Crime Blotter that shows recent activity in the beat. This information is also posted on the Village website. Residents are encouraged to ask questions and provide additional information.

Beat 2 Team Leader Lt. Randy Hoving says, "The idea of these meeting is not for the police to preach about what we think the problems are in the community. When we have a Beat 2 meeting, we want people to see us as members of the community who are trying to work with them on ways to improve each neighborhood."

### 2018 NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH MEETINGS

#### BEAT 1

**Location:** Lansing Police Department Courtroom, 2710 170th Street.

**Team Leader:** Lt. Mizner— [cmizner@villageoflansing.org](mailto:cmizner@villageoflansing.org)

**Meeting dates:**

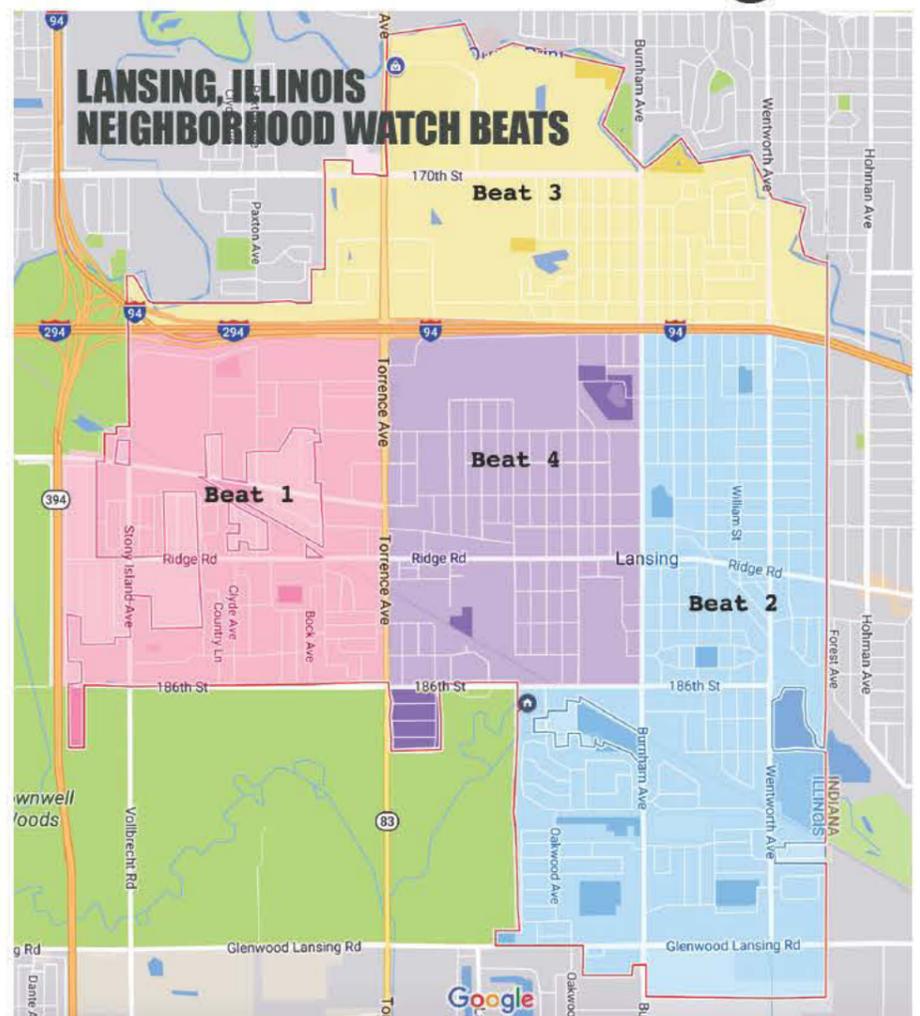
- February 7, 6:30pm
- May 16, 6:30pm
- August 22, 6:30pm
- November 28, 6:30pm

#### BEAT 2

**Team Leader:** Lt. Hoving— [rhoving@villageoflansing.org](mailto:rhoving@villageoflansing.org)

#### Meeting dates and locations:

- February 19, 6:30pm, Lansing Police Department Courtroom (2710 170th Street)
- May 15, 6:30pm, Rotary Park (193rd and Sherman Street) in the Northeast pavilion, next to the parking lot
- September 18, 6:30pm, Rotary Park (193rd and Sherman Street) in the Northeast pavilion, next to the parking lot
- November 15, 6:30pm, Lansing Police Department Courtroom (2710 170th Street)



Lansing residents are encouraged to participate in Neighborhood Watch meetings in any of Lansing's four beats.

#### BEAT 3

**Location:** Lansing Police Department Courtroom, 2710 170th Street.

**Team Leader:** Lt. Biron— [tbiron@villageoflansing.org](mailto:tbiron@villageoflansing.org)

**Meeting dates:**

- January 31, 6:30pm
- April 11, 6:30pm
- August 15, 6:30pm
- December 5, 6:30pm

#### BEAT 4

**Location:** Eisenhower Center (2550 178th Street), usually in Room 105

**Team Leader:** Lt. Phillips— [aphillips@villageoflansing.org](mailto:aphillips@villageoflansing.org)

**Meeting dates:**

- March 15, 6:30pm
- June 6, 6:30pm
- September 26, 6:30pm
- December 12, 6:30pm

# 95 years

## oldest family business is still insuring Lansing families

computers would be a big part of her job, and so she decided to retire.

### “WONDERFUL AND GENEROUS”

She regarded Walter Schultz as “the most wonderful and generous boss anyone could have,” describing him as having characteristics similar to George Bailey in the classic movie *It’s a Wonderful Life*. “He was so generous and helped so many people in town to go into business by loaning them money to get started. He and his brother and Gus Bock donated the property for the 20-acre Lan-Oak Park,” Ogborn said.

### STILL SERVING

Cheryl Abbott said that the busy agency offers auto, home, life, health, and business insurance. “We’re an independent agency. We can quote with five or six different companies, and some have better rates than others do,” she said. “We shop around for the customer and give them different options.” If none of those options fit what the customer is looking for, then she says Schultz agents aren’t pushy.

The business currently has a staff of eight. Two of the agents have been with the company for four decades. Dan Derks has been employed by Schultz Insurance for 40 years, and Jim Janssen has been there for 41 years.

“We are happy to celebrate our 95th anniversary,” said Norman Abbott. “My father-in-law’s focus was always service to his customers. And we wouldn’t be here without our longtime customers. We are really looking forward to getting to our 100th year. Not a lot of companies can say they’ve done that. It’s kind of a monumental thing to say that a family business has been around for 100 years.”



Above: This 1925 photo shows the dry goods store that used to be part of the Schultz family business. The man on the left is unknown. The woman in the center is Viola Schultz, Walter’s sister—Lansing’s Violet Road was named after her. On the right is Walter Schultz. By the 1960s, the Walter Schultz family was focusing only on insurance.

Below: The photo on the left shows the Schultz storefront in the 1950s. The right photo is from 1972. The Schultz family business has been operating from the same location—18119 Torrence Avenue—for 95 years. (Photos provided)



## Women’s March, continued from page 1

explained. “My daughter’s enthusiasm to attend this year made it impossible to say no. I have worked hard to raise a daughter who is aware of political issues, aware of cultural issues, sensitive to injustices in society, and capable of speaking up.”

Jadyn, a 16-year-old junior at TF South, said that she sees herself as an ambassador. She is able to attend events like the Women’s March and gain a new perspective, which she then shares with her peers.

“Being so young, I strive to be socially aware and lead my generation in the fight for equal rights for all,” Jadyn said. She hopes she inspires others to “work towards seeking justice for their futures.”

### MARCHING TO THE POLLS

The message of the March was that women need to find ways to get involved—at the very least, they need to vote. That message resonates with Dominique. Currently

serving on the board of the Home-wood-Flossmoor League of Women Voters, she says that being actively involved in the community has helped her recognize how powerful women can be when they come together. Dominique hopes to eventually form a Lansing chapter of the League of Women Voters.

“It’s important to know that we aren’t alone in what we observe and experience as women, and it’s important to have a willingness to do something about it,” Dominique said. “It’s equally important to communicate to those in positions of power that we are watching and we are unwilling to passively accept inequality and injustice in our nation.”

At 16, Janiya is not old enough to vote, so the Women’s March gives her an opportunity to express her views. “Participating in events like this is important because it lets people who don’t have a voice know that someone is speaking up for them and standing with them,” she

said. “It allows for the voiceless to be heard.”

### MARCHING FOR EVERYONE

And as Isis, 17, puts it, feminism is about equality for all. Not just men or women, but everyone.

“I believe in equality for all and I wanted to share my voice and keep marching until there’s equality for all,” she said.

Many people across the country believe in the importance of sharing their voice as well. It is estimated that worldwide, 1.5 million people marched in 486 different rallies this year alone.

“My favorite part about the march is being surrounded by people who are passionate about the same things as you are,” Isis said. “It’s truly amazing seeing so many people of different genders, ages, sexual orientations, religions, races, cultures, and traditions come together.”

“Every person has some reason why they choose to march, whether it be a personal experience, a son or daughter, or a witness of injustice in others’ lives,” Jadyn said. “That, to me, is incredible.”



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# Village Board evaluates vehicle sticker fees

## Increasing from \$30 to \$45 would provide \$210,000 in additional revenue

BY MELANIE JONGSMA

LANSING, Ill. (January 22, 2018) – “Certainly while increasing fees is not something that we desire to do,” said Village Administrator Dan Podgorski at the January 16 Committee of the Whole meeting, “sometimes it’s necessary to maintain the levels of service that residents expect from Lansing. ...There’s a multitude of capital improvements that we need throughout the village.” The examples Podgorski listed include the police fleet, fire engines, ambulances, the Public Works fleet, and a server upgrade for the police department.

A comparison of vehicle sticker fees charged by surrounding villages revealed that Lansing’s are below average. The current vehicle sticker fee for Lansing residents is \$30, and the last time the fee was increased was 2008. “If we go from \$30 to \$45, we won’t be the highest—as there’s two other communities at \$50—but it would push us into the top half of the surrounding communities,” said Podgorski.

The \$15 increase would generate approximately \$210,000 of additional revenue.

Other factors under consideration are to extend the selling period to the entire month of May, and to enforce the vehicle sticker requirement more consistently.

### LANSING’S VEHICLE CODE

Chapter 38 of Lansing’s Municipal Code (which is available through [villageoflansing.org](http://villageoflansing.org)) concerns Traffic and Motor Vehicles. Article IV within that chapter concerns Registration and Licenses. The vehicle sticker requirement is worded as follows:

“Every person residing within the village, or who houses a vehicle or vehicles within the village, or whose principal offices are within the village, shall pay to the village clerk each year a tax or license fee for the use of each motor vehicle used on any public street or highway in the village. Every person shall pay the village clerk each year a tax or license fee for the use of each motorbus or motor coach used on any regularly scheduled service on any public street or highway in the village. The provisions of this section do not apply to buses or motor coaches operated by village corporations.”

As clarified by the Village, this means the fee is not based on the residency of the owner, or the registration of the vehicle, but on where a vehicle is “housed” and “used.”

Deputy Chief Rick Slough, of the Lansing Police Department, further explained, “All vehicles in the Village of Lansing are required to have a vehicle sticker displayed at all times. Stickers must be displayed on any motor vehicle operated by a Lansing resident on a public street

or highway within the Village. Stickers also must be displayed on any motor vehicle that is not in use but is kept or stored within the Village. Leased and company-owned vehicles also are required to have vehicle stickers.”

### ENFORCING THE CODE

Slough oversees the Lansing Police Department’s Field Services Division. Since vehicle stickers are sold in May and due on windshields in June, each July 1 Slough notifies the patrol division to begin conducting “sticker checks” throughout the entire town. “With this notice, I also attach a map of the entire town,” said Slough. “Officers are assigned specific areas. When a violation is observed, they write a citation and hang it on the windshield of the offending vehicle. Shift Commanders keep track of what was covered by highlighting the completed area on the map. This continues until the entire map is highlighted, indicating that the entire town was covered. Typically, I give the officers about 4 or 5 weeks to complete this task.”

The process is repeated in mid-September. In addition, Slough encourages his officers year-round to locate sticker violations and write citations as part of their regular patrol duties.

In 2017, 16,591 vehicle stickers were purchased in Lansing for

vehicles of all types. That year, LPD wrote 934 village sticker violations.

In 2016, 17,966 vehicle stickers were purchased in Lansing for vehicles of all types, and LPD wrote 980 village sticker violations.

The typical fine for a sticker violation is \$25.00.

### OTHER STICKER FEE FACTS

According to the Illinois Vehicle code, the revenue generated by vehicle sticker fees is intended to be used for the repair and maintenance of streets.

The last time Lansing’s sticker fees were raised was in 2008, near the end of Dan Podgorski’s second term as Mayor.

### TUESDAY’S VOTE

The Board planned to vote on the increase at the February 6 Village Board meeting. At press time for this print publication, that meeting had not yet happened. The Lansing Journal will share the results in our online news, which publishes daily at [thelansingjournal.com](http://thelansingjournal.com).

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## Property database could spur economic development

### Updated links on Village website give businesses access to available buildings and properties

BY PATRICIA MUHAMMAD

LANSING, Ill. (January 31, 2018) - The Village of Lansing’s Economic Development department is in the process of making several changes to the Village website, and they recently added access to an updated, real-time database of available sites and available buildings. The database can be used as a marketing tool and as a means to spur economic development in the area.

Village Administrator Dan Podgorski said, “Some of the resources are already available on the current website and we plan on putting more information to it. Some of the information that’s up is already useful.” The Economic Development and Planning tab of the Village website includes two sidebar links that serve as portals to an online database specific to Lansing properties and buildings.

### VALUABLE TOOLS

Property sites and buildings databases serve as valuable tools for municipalities and are designed to assist real estate agents and commercial businesses seeking to purchase buildings or land sites in the area. Information contained within a property database varies, but common elements include list price, square footage, address, the

year the building was built, and a photo of the property.

Landwatch.com is one example. Visitors can enter a zip code to find available properties within Lansing, and the listings include total cost of land, cost per acre, a description of the land, photo, real estate agency, and contact person. It’s not clear how up-to-date this database is.

### ONGOING WORK

Podgorski explained that there has been ongoing work dedicated to updating the database site and buildings link. As of this update, the database includes 9 sites and 15 buildings in Lansing.

“It is the goal of the administration to have available for prospective developers and business owners, and residents to access our property search database,” Podgorski said. “Those searching for property information will be taken to a link and provided with information relative to a site or building that may be available for them. The link is available to everyone.” Podgorski agreed that finding information about available sites and buildings can be difficult for the average person, and the new updated link will serve as an invaluable tool.

“We make the information accessible so that we can streamline business development opportunities to

interested developers, and residents looking to do business in Lansing. We want to make it easy for them to go out and find the information,” he said.

### A GREAT IDEA

“I think it is a great idea for the Village of Lansing to have a property search database,” said Sheryl Stewart-Caldwell, Economic Development Project Director for Cook County Planning & Development. “The presence of a property database creates accountability for the village, so it will know how much land and buildings are available for purchase. The database can also be used as a marketing tool.”

John Watson, Economic Development Director for South Holland, says there are several property search databases available for public use, including the Local Information System (LOIS), and Co-star. “As part of the South Suburban Mayors and Managers Association, (SSMMA) most villages in the south suburbs, including Lansing, should have access to the LOIS property search database. To access the LOIS system, searchers would have to log onto the municipality’s website. You will find that the system is a divide between available land sites and available buildings in the area,” Watson said.



Village Administrator Dan Podgorski

Regarding long-range plans for the database, Podgorski stated that the Village is aware of the various property search databases available, but hasn’t determined if the Village will choose to use outside sources. “There are commercial entities which list commercial sites and buildings, but we haven’t decided if we are going to link to an outside site or whether we are going to repackage it in our own format.”

### ECONOMIC PROGRESS

Podgorski says the Village’s updated links will be used as a marketing tool to spur development in Lansing, which he says is experiencing positive, economic progress: “We are getting a lot of calls about development in Lansing. It takes time for deals to materialize. New businesses don’t happen overnight. You have to work new deals and phone calls and try to match up the right developer with the right property and the right package of incentives. I would be worried if we weren’t getting calls for development.”



In the forest preserves along Thornton-Lansing Road, at various times drivers have noticed machinery, clouds of dust, felled trees, and/or piles of wood shavings. (Photo: Melanie Jongsma, January 23, 2018)

# Zander Woods undergoes restoration

## Rare ecosystem ranks as Number 2 priority

INFORMATION PROVIDED BY FOREST PRESERVES OF COOK COUNTY

THORNTON, Ill. (January 21, 2018) – Lansing residents who drive to South Holland or Homewood via Thornton-Lansing Road have noticed machinery and activity taking place in the Forest Preserves' Thornton-Lansing Road Nature Preserve, commonly known as Zander Woods. Stacina Stagner, Communications Manager for Cook County Forest Preserves explains, "This site is undergoing ecological restoration as part of a multi-site project across southern Cook County in collaboration with the Illinois Department of Natural Resources." The restoration project will cost \$999,725, and it is being funded by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency under the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative to protect and restore Great Lakes habitats.

Zander Woods has been identified as the Forest Preserves' number two priority restoration site because it is a rare sand savanna ecosystem in Cook County. The preserve is currently dominated by black and white oak trees that are shading out many of the habitat's rare native plants. The 140-acre project will include tree removal, with an overall goal of increasing light levels on the ground.

The project is part of The Millennium Reserve Compact – Uniting to Control Invasives project, which includes 12 sites totaling nearly 300 acres of wetlands, prairie, and savannas that will be restored. Partners include Audubon Great Lakes and GreenCorps Chicago, the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, The Nature Conservancy, Chicago Park District, Illinois Nature Preserves Commission, Southeast Environmental Task Force, and the Forest Preserves of Cook County.

About 60 acres were completed last winter, and crews are working hard to finish up this year.

## OBITUARIES

### ANDERSON

A funeral service for Ruth L. Anderson (nee Johnson) was held Sunday, February 4, 2018, at Smits, DeYoung-Vroegh Funeral Home in South Holland, IL, with Pastor Maxine Washington officiating.

Mrs. Anderson was born August 17, 1933, and passed away February 1, 2018. Wife of the late Harold R. Anderson. Mother of Thomas (Susan) Anderson and Anita (Roland) Mendez. Grandmother of three. Sister of the late David Johnson and the late Dorothy (late Robert) Bird.

Interment was at Oak Hill Cemetery, Chicago, IL. Arrangements were entrusted to Smits, DeYoung-Vroegh Funeral Home, South Holland, IL.

### BURNS

A Funeral Mass for Katherine A. "Kitty" Burns (nee Kutaj) was held on February 3, 2018, from Holy Ghost Church with Rev. Anthony Talarico officiating.

Mrs. Burns was born May 20, 1940, and died January 28, 2018. She was the wife of the late Gerald E. "Gerry" Burns; mother of Michael (Christine) Pettit, Mary (Scott) King, and John (Atrice) Burns; sister of Alice (Dan) Dziadon, Dorothy (Tim) Conley, Ann (Ed) Gallagher, Rose (Terry) Wiley, and the late Alex Kutaj; Grandma Kitty to numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren; sister-in-law of Lucille Burns; Auntie Kitty of many nieces and nephews; stepmother of seven; friend and companion of Jim Kelly.

Interment was private. Arrangements were entrusted to Thornridge Funeral Home (Janusz Family Funeral Service).

### ERIKS

A funeral service for Edward Eriks was held Saturday, February 3, 2018, at First Church (PCA) in Lansing, IL, with Rev. Ben Kappers officiating.

Mr. Eriks was born February 2, 1916, and passed away January 29, 2018. Husband of the late Joanne Eriks (nee DeBoer). Father of Ronald (Sherri) Eriks, Richard Eriks and Marilyn (late Henry) Boer. Grandfather of seven; great-grandfather of 15; great-great-grandfather of one. Brother-in-law of Ruth (late Marvin) Eriks. Preceded in death by five brothers, two sisters, and one grandchild.

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

### FRONCZAK

A funeral mass for Theresa S. Fronczak (nee Krajewski) was held Wednesday, January 31, 2018, at Holy Ghost Church in South Holland, IL, with Rev. Anthony Talarico officiating.

Mrs. Fronczak was born August 31, 1925, and passed away January 27, 2018. Wife of the late Edward John Fronczak. Mother of David (Deborah) Fronczak, Paul (Lori) Fronczak, and Carol (David) Potete. Grandmother of five and great-grand-

mother of five. Preceded in death by three brothers and one sister.

Interment was at Holy Cross Cemetery, Calumet City, IL. Arrangements were entrusted to Smits, DeYoung-Vroegh Funeral Home, South Holland, IL.

### HEBER

A funeral service for John W. Heber III was held Saturday, February 3, 2018, at Smits Funeral Home in Dyer, IN.

Mr. Heber was born June 18, 1947, and passed away January 31, 2018. Husband of Elaine H. Heber (nee Martens). Father of John (Sheri) Heber and Dave Heber. Grandfather of four; great-grandfather of one. Brother of Ken (Ros) Heber.

Arrangements were entrusted to Smits Funeral Home, James E. Janusz Funeral Service, Dyer, IN.

### MAURELLO

A funeral service for Denise J. Maurello (nee Ridder) was held Friday, January 26, 2018 at Smits Funeral Home in Dyer, IN, with Rev. Andy Nearpass officiating.

Mrs. Maurello was born March 18, 1965, and passed away January 20, 2018. Wife of William A. Maurello. Mother of Hannah and Anthony Maurello. Daughter of Elaine (Kenneth) Van Dellen and the late Howard Ridder Sr. Sister of Karen Harkema, Howard (Brenda) Ridder Jr., and Dorene (Michael) Sroczyński.

Interment was at Chapel Lawn Memorial Gardens Cemetery, Schererville, IN. Arrangements were entrusted to Smits Funeral Home, Dyer, IN.

### RAIBLEY

A Funeral Service for Maria Sue Raibley was held on February 5, 2018, at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints with Bishop Todd Diel officiating.

Mrs. Raibley (nee Zanis) was born September 22, 1980, and died January 28, 2018.

She was the wife of Mark; daughter of Greg and Susan Zanis; sister of Chris Zanis, Catherine (Fletcher) Oliver, Susie Zanis, and Gregory Zanis; daughter-in-law of Elaine Raibley; aunt to many nieces and nephews.

Interment was at Orland Memorial Park Cemetery. Arrangements were entrusted to Thornridge Funeral Home (Janusz Family Funeral Service).

### SCHERER

A funeral service for Dennis A. Scherer was held Monday, January 29, 2018, at Smits Funeral Home in Dyer, IN.

Mr. Scherer was born June 17, 1941, and passed away January 22, 2018. Husband of Paulette (nee Bauer). Father of Dennis Scherer, Liane Bania, and Becky (David) Jurek. Grandfather of eight. Brother of Gloria (Rany) Lang; brother-in-law of Chuck (Jan) Bauer, Annette (Gary De St. Jean) Watson, and the late Pat (Paul) Salus.

Interment was at Memory Lane Cemetery, Crown Point, IN. Arrangements were entrusted to Smits Funeral Home, Dyer, IN.

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# New high school invites local businesses to shape education

## Redesigned internships will be part of UCA's curriculum

BY MELANIE JONGSMA

SOUTH HOLLAND, Ill. (January 23, 2018) – “We want you to influence our curriculum,” said Neil Okuley to the business leaders gathered at the 7:30am breakfast meeting. Okuley is the Academic Dean of Unity Christian Academy (UCA), a new high school in South Holland that is redefining what it means to be educated in today's world.

Internships will be a big part of the education offered at UCA, and UCA had invited local businesses to help craft those internships and make them meaningful and mutually beneficial. The meeting included representatives from Abbott's Printing, Doctor's Interior Plantscaping, Grier Abrasive Company, IKG Property Management, JMA Architects, Miniati, Inc., Robinson Engineering, The Shopper Group, and the Village of South Holland.

### MAKING EDUCATION RELEVANT

During the 90-minute discussion, several business owners expressed frustration with how ill-prepared interns—and new graduates—are for the workplace. Poor communication skills, lack of initiative, and over-dependence on technology were cited as discouraging characteristics.

Those “soft skills” are an

important part of the education offered at UCA. Okuley says, “Part of our job as a school is to ask the question, ‘Who are we graduating in four years?’ We want to make sure we are graduating people who are able to meet the needs of our community and of the new jobs that are happening right now.” Inviting businesses into the curriculum formation process is a way of making education relevant.

Businesses are encouraged to tell the school specifically what kind of work they do in the community, what problems they solve, and what skills they look for when considering new team members. UCA will then weave those skills and opportunities into the education they offer.

### NOT A TRADE SCHOOL

Okuley is quick to correct the impression that this approach will pigeon-hole kids into a career track right away. The school's intention is to prepare kids for meaningful work whether they enter the workforce after high school or after college, and whether they go into a trade or an office job or an entrepreneurial opportunity.

As Okuley outlined UCA's four-year internship plan, he re-emphasized that UCA's mission goes

beyond simply providing an excellent education. The excellent education they offer has a practical purpose— “the flourishing of all creation.” UCA believes that education should expose students to a variety of opportunities and help them discover their own strengths and passions. As students learn how those skills fit into the workplace and into the community, they become high-quality workers. As a result, they flourish, their employers flourish, and the community flourishes.

### A NETWORK OF OPPORTUNITIES

Perhaps just as important, this partnership between UCA and the business community will serve as the students' first network. As students visit workplaces, meet

business owners, ask questions, and see skills in action, they learn who knows what—and who's hiring. Likewise, the employers get a glimpse of the skills and personalities that Unity students offer. Phone calls, reference letters, and introductions become a natural outgrowth of the relationships that develop during the four-year process.

“We want our kids to be part of the fabric of the community the

school is based in,” said Mike Nylen, Director of Operations for UCA and organizer of the meeting. “That means they need to interact with businesses and other areas of community that make this such a rich environment.”

### FOR MORE INFORMATION

UCA has

offered a series of informational events for parents who are curious about this new approach to education. The next events are scheduled for February 12 and March 12 at 16341 South Park Avenue in South Holland. Details can be found at [WeAreUCA.org/OpenHouse](http://WeAreUCA.org/OpenHouse).

Businesses who are interested in exploring partnership with UCA are invited to contact Mike Nylen directly: [mnylen@weareuca.org](mailto:mnylen@weareuca.org).

“UCA prepares kids for meaningful work whether they enter the workforce after high school or after college, whether they go into a trade or an office job or an entrepreneurial opportunity.”

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Right, and above: Volunteers helped sort inventory and match coats to people.

Above, left: This was the first large-scale coat giveaway organized by Thornton Township, so Communications Director Ernst Lamothe fielded questions from Chicago media about the event. (Photos: Nate Field Jr.)



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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.

This month we asked people a simple question: "What do you love about Lansing?" Responses are below—

## We Love Lansing

THOUGHTFUL COMMENTS AND PHOTOS SUBMITTED VIA EMAIL AND FACEBOOK



**KAREN KIJEWski**  
(part of four generations living in Lansing)

Love the tradition of the Lansing Halloween parade! I have lived in Lansing for 55 years, and we were in the parade every year! Our children are 33, 29, and 17, and they have been in it every year, and now our grandchildren who are 9, 4, and 1 have been in the Halloween parade!



**JENNIFER YOS**

Location. (I can drive to the city, to Midway Airport, and to the Indiana State Dunes usually in less than an hour.) Rico's pizza. The Lansing Public Library. The bike trails. Erfert Park. The Lansing Journal.



**KAREN KIJEWski**  
(again)

Love the Fat Friday Bash! We look forward to a fun Mardi Gras Party every year!



**BARB DUST**  
(Lansing Historical Society)

What I love about Lansing is the spirit of volunteerism that is still present in this community. I network with other Historical Societies in the area and realize that many are struggling to get volunteers for activities. I am pleased to say that we had over 40 people come out to help with the Festival of Lights in some way this year, whether to move furniture, haul out the trees and

ornaments, decorate, act as guides, and take down everything and clean up! Our members are great, but we also had many other community people help out just because they wanted to.

Lansing has a great history of civic participation. The 1954 Centennial involved over 12,000 people. We used to have the Lansing Civic Choir and Floodlighters Drama Group. My hope is that we can build on L.A.C.E. and other groups to encourage even more people to come on out and get involved.

**PATTY GRIGUTIS**

My favorite thing about Lansing is the close community feeling. I love cruise nights, Good Neighbor Day parade, and Autumn Fest. We have awesome restaurant choices.

**MARGOT SANDERS-PRICE**

I love the maturity of residents that refuse to

participate in the rumor mill and appreciate hearing the truth no matter how much it may hurt.



**JOANN KIJEWski**

Love the "small town" feeling of living in Lansing. I am a country girl transplanted to the city and therefore enjoy the friendships we share in the Village of Lansing. So many opportunities to help each other in this town.



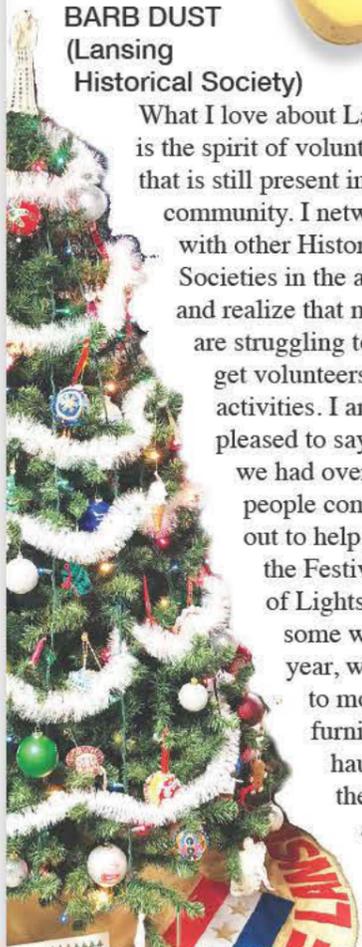
**ASHLEY CUSHING**

I have been a Lansing resident for almost 25 years, and what I love about my hometown is the diversity! I have met people from all walks of life, and it's great to see that being represented in various community activities each year, such as the Good Neighbor Day Parade and the Festival of Lights.



**KEN JONGSMA**  
(former Lansing resident who receives Lansing news via email every day)

Love The Lansing Journal keeping us informed about our town.



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# 'En Español, por favor'

## Lansing Christian School is immersing kids in Spanish

BY ASHLEE DE WIT

LANSING, Ill. (January 2018) – In Sandy Tijerina's kindergarten class at Lansing Christian School, students are learning their letters, figuring out the calendar, and reading to each other. They study science and math, and they do a lot of singing. But unlike most area kindergarten classes, they're doing all this in Spanish.

Tijerina's class is part of Lansing Christian School's Spanish immersion program, where students who grow up in English-speaking homes learn Spanish as a second language—not in the standard Spanish classes, but through exclusive use of the language.

"It's like a typical kindergarten class—but in Spanish only," Tijerina said.

From the moment the kindergarteners enter the classroom, there's no English allowed. These students will be in Spanish-only classrooms until third grade; then English is re-introduced slowly, in increasing amounts, until they graduate.

By fifth grade, studies show, they will likely be fluent in both languages.

Lansing Christian students haven't gotten to that point yet—the school is now three years into its program, and the first Spanish immersion class is currently in second grade.

### GETTING STARTED: ¡COMENCEMOS! (LET'S GET STARTED!)

Tijerina's kindergarten class is the starting point for all Spanish immersion students at Lansing Christian—it's not an easy program to transfer into later.

"There is so much development in that first year, it's nearly impossible to jump in after kindergarten," Principal Jon Postma explained.

Each August, Tijerina welcomes a new class of five-year-olds—some of whom are starting school for the first time; all of whom speak exclusively English—into her Spanish-only classroom. The job certainly comes with some challenges. After all, kindergarten is already a big transition for many students; adding a foreign language adds another level of stress.

Tijerina understands this—she grew up in a Spanish-speaking home, and essentially had an English-immersion education.



At the whiteboard, teacher Sandy Tijerina illustrates a concept for her kindergarteners. Seated, teacher aide Michelle Smith is ready to help. (Photo: Ashlee De Wit)

"You have to be consistent and patient," Tijerina said. "They are nervous at first, so we need to do everything in our power to make them feel safe, and feel confident that they will learn."

She has help in the classroom—Michelle Smith serves as the kindergarten aide. Since the teaching requires a lot of one-on-one attention, the school keeps the student-to-teacher ratio low. Their current kindergarten class has 14 students.

Smith is not a native Spanish speaker. "I had a Spanish minor in college," she said. "I know the difficulty of learning as an adult; I know the benefits of learning early. They (the students) are complete sponges, and they soak it all up. It's a wonderful program, and I'm excited to be a part of it."

### STICKING WITH IT: ¡PRACTIQUEMOS! (LET'S PRACTICE!)

The amount they learn in the first few months is significant.

By January, the kindergarteners respond to their teacher's questions, recite Bible verses, sing songs and even converse with each other, entirely in Spanish.

To help the students pick up the language, the teachers demonstrate everything they say—especially early in the year. Instead of just telling the students what to do, they show them: for example, they don't

just tell them to sit at the table—they take each child by the hand when they arrive, and lead them to their seat. Eventually, students learn the word for table (*la mesa*), and go there on their own.

Patience, consistency and routines are keys to success—along with lots of singing.

"We have a song for almost everything," Tijerina said.

Kelly Burney, the school's computer teacher, serves as the point person for the Spanish immersion program at Lansing Christian. She assists the principal and teachers with research and needed materials and acts as a connection point for parents. She also has a first-grade daughter in the Spanish immersion program, so she has firsthand experience.

"Some days it's really exciting—like when I realized that she's thinking in Spanish," Burney said. She recounted an evening at home when her daughter casually asked for the "grapadora," instead of the "stapler," because the Spanish term came more naturally.

But being part of such a new and different program can be difficult for parents, too.

"It's also terrifying, because you really have to trust the teachers; you have to take a risk and have faith in the program," she said.

It can also be difficult for children to explain to their parents what they are learning.

The school aims to include parents as much as possible, welcoming them into the classroom frequently through meetings, parties, and other events. The staff communicates through email, texts, and a newsletter.

"We want to keep them as informed as possible," Tijerina said. "Some kids speak Spanish only in the classroom, so it helps when parents can see them learning and flourishing."

### SOAKING IT UP: ¡SI PODEMOS! (YES WE CAN!)

There are trade-offs in those first few years, when students' academic focus is another language.

"It's a high cognitive demand," said Postma. "It's not just new concepts they are learning, but a new vocabulary."

Burney has friends whose kids are

**"Dr. Air"**

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Immersion teaching requires a lot of one-on-one attention, so the student-to-teacher ratio is kept low. Michelle Smith is an aide in a class of 14 students. (Photo: Ashlee De Wit)

Continued next page

## Spanish, continued

currently more advanced in English language and reading—but she is confident that her daughter will catch up.

“Data shows that most (Spanish immersion) students are even with or ahead (of their peers) by fourth or fifth grade,” she said.

Parents can choose an English track for their kindergarteners at Lansing Christian; Spanish immersion is not the only option. But Burney and her husband plan to send their other two daughters through the Spanish immersion program as well.

“I imagine that soon they’ll be sitting around talking about us

and we won’t know what they are saying!” she laughed.

### PARA MÁS INFORMACIÓN (FOR MORE INFORMATION!)

Parents who are interested in the program for their own children can find out more about enrollment on the school’s website, [www.lansingchristian.org](http://www.lansingchristian.org). Many of the employees also invited parents to call the office at (708) 474-1700 and schedule a tour—including a stop in a Spanish immersion classroom.

“We really encourage parents to visit,” Smith said. “I think it’s normal to be nervous or skeptical, but if they come and see it, I think they’ll be amazed at what the kids are capable of doing.”

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## LPD hosts “largest class” for 2018 Citizens Police Academy

28 enrollees are learning about Neighborhood Watch meetings, traffic stops, 911 calls, K-9 officers, and more

BY MELANIE JONGSMA

LANSING, Ill. (January 31, 2018) – “This is one of the largest, if not the largest, class we have ever had,” said Lt. Scott Bailey in a January 12 email. By class time on January 16, the 2018 Citizen’s Police Academy included a total of 28 students. Last year, the Lansing Police Department had to cancel the academy due to low enrollment.

As the organizer of the course, Bailey had hoped for some diversity in attendees—not just ethnic diversity, but also age and gender. The 22 enrollees who made it to the first class included 15 Whites, 6 Blacks, and 1 Hispanic. The gender ratio was 16 females to 6 males.

### CITIZENS

At 17, Alline Batts may be the youngest member of the class. Her career plans include getting a degree in Criminal Justice and then becoming a detective. She believes the Citizens Police Academy will confirm her career choice.

Other class members have less specific hopes for the academy.

“I just wanted to get to know more about the community,” said Christine Billstrand, a life-long Lansing resident. And Marilyn Freeman came looking for “just general knowledge.” Doug Cable had participated in a Local History class offered by Jeff White last year, and he thought the Citizens Police Academy might be a similar opportunity to meet new people and learn new things.



Alline Batts (pictured here with her father Eugene) is hoping the Citizens Police Academy will confirm the career decision she’s already made. (Photo: Melanie Jongsma)

### POLICE

The Week 1 class included introductions and an overview of:

- Goals and objectives for the course
- Overview of the Lansing Police Department
- Recruitment of new officers
- The application and selection process
- Police Academy, including a review of the Field Training Officer program
- Community policing and the Neighborhood Watch program

Chief of Police Dennis Murrin; Deputy Chief Pete Grutzius; Lt. Al Phillips, Police Recruiter; and Lt. Bailey and Sgt. Gabe Barajas from Support Services all shared information. The class concluded with a tour of the Lansing Police Department.

### ACADEMY

During Week 2, Communications Supervisor Brian Weis discussed what kind of information is important to gather during a 911 call, and Sgt. Barajas gave some tips about how to react during an active shooter situation.



Week 3 included questions and answers about traffic violations, by Officer Dana Tatgenhorst. And Officer Keith Haan did a K-9 demonstration with police dog Officer Rico.

The entire academy lasts nine weeks, ending on March 14. The ultimate goal is a mutual understanding of the role that citizens and police both play in building community.

Classes meet at the Lansing Police Department, 2710 170th Street in Lansing. Contact Lt. Bailey to be notified about the next Citizens Police Academy: 708-895-7130 or [sbailey@villageoflansing.org](mailto:sbailey@villageoflansing.org).

At the January 31 class, Officer Keith Haan (standing) answered questions about Officer Rico. (Photo: Melanie Jongsma)

# Why Blacks are choosing Lansing

## Safety, schools, and shops are all factors in suburban migration

BY PATRICIA MUHAMMAD

LANSING, Ill. (February 2018) - Since the mid-1990s, the south suburbs—including Lansing, South Holland, Harvey, Homewood, and Matteson—have seen an influx of African-Americans. The demolition of public housing during the Daley era was a major factor that pushed thousands of African-Americans out of the inner city, where they had no choice but to leave. Some left with Section 8 housing vouchers, and others—those who were financially prepared to leave—left Chicago to start a new life in the suburbs.

Census statistics show that since 2010, more than 181,000 black residents have left Chicago headed to other states and the greater Chicagoland area.

### DIVERSE REASONS

People leave the city for many reasons. "African-Americans leaving Chicago to live in the

Darvel Stinson believes Blacks in Lansing should get involved in local politics. He saw the decline of Englewood and believes community involvement could have prevented that. (Photo provided)

south suburbs is definitely becoming more of a trend," said Darvel Stinson, a 12-year resident of Lansing and a Parent Coordinator for TF South High School. "A lot of African-Americans are looking for a better environment to raise their children and better opportunities for academics as far as the school districts are concerned."

"I believe this flight of African-Americans will continue to become a growing trend as long we continue to see in the news what's going on in the inner city of Chicago. You will see a lot of



African-Americans moving not only to the south suburbs but to the northern and northwest suburbs as well," Stinson added.

### PEACE

Yvonne Zollicoffer and her family left Maywood in 2006 because of the turbulent violence. "I have nothing negative to say about Lansing," said Yvonne, a paraprofessional at Thornwood High School. "I left Chicago because of the violence. I would never move back to Chicago."

It was a close-call shooting incident involving her daughter that convinced Yvonne it was time to leave. She remembers vividly the day her daughter, a student at Finger High School, told her how she had to beg the security officer to let her in while gunshots sounded around her.

The Zollicoffers appreciate the more peaceful life they enjoy in Lansing: "I really like the school system here," said Yvonne, "as well as my neighbors. They look out for me, and I look out for them. As far as things to do, I like the Fourth of July fireworks, the Farmer's Market, and shopping in local stores. I support wherever my tax dollar goes."

### EDUCATION

Stinson, a former Englewood resident, said that before moving to Lansing, he and his wife were concerned about the quality of education available to their children. Finding a suitable school in Lansing became a serious part of their house hunt. The Stinsons selected Memorial Junior High and TF South High School as the best academic institutions for their two children.

"One thing we did our homework on," said Stinson, "was the school systems in the south suburbs. Lansing has a great curriculum we felt our children would benefit from."

Kim and Cliff Mansker agree. They have lived in Lansing since



Yvonne Zollicoffer appreciates the peace her family enjoys in Lansing. They participate in community events, look out for their neighbors, and shop local. (Photo: Patricia Muhammad)

2006, moving here primarily for the school system. Kim said, "It's a lot more structured than what my children were accustomed to. The teachers are excellent in identifying what my children need."

A mother of five, Kim has sent her children through TF South High School, Memorial Junior High School, and Reavis Elementary in Lansing. She said, "I enjoy being a member of the Lansing PTA because it keeps parents in the loop of what's going on. We are there, active in the school system for our children's education, and we want them to know that they have parents that care."

Kim's husband Cliff has served as coach for three years with the Lansing Little League baseball team, and he currently coaches basketball at Reavis.

### OPPORTUNITY

Stinson believes Lansing has embraced diversity, so blacks and other people of color feel more accepted living and working in the community even though it is predominately white. "The

Continued next page

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Kim and Cliff Mansker appreciate the educational opportunities available in Lansing. They have sent their children through TF South High School, Memorial Junior High School, and Reavis Elementary in Lansing. Kim is a member of the PTA, and Cliff is coaching basketball at Reavis. From left: Zan, Clifton II, Kim, Kaylin, Clifton I, and Kelli Mansker. Inset: J'Won Vaughn. (Photo: Stephanie Segrest)





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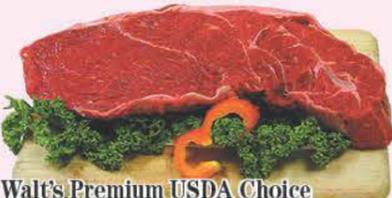
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## Rooms For Rent

**Room for rent: Large room** in my house. Clean, quiet, fully furnished. In room TV with cable, electric, gas included. Full kitchen, laundry, 3 baths. Public transportation at each end of street. \$120 per week. 708-382-1335

## Pets

**Registered English bulldog** puppies to give away to caring home. Call 914-279-5977

## Lost & Found



**Lost/Stolen Cat: Calumet City.** Cheyennise 5 yrs. Calico, white, black, rust, beige, beige heart around mouth. Miss her please return. 708-801-9442

## Wanted

**Wanted: Diabetic Test Strips** Freestyle Lite One Touch Accu-Chek Contour and Others. Must be sealed, unopened, unexpired, unused boxes. 708-474-3941

**Wanted: Don't throw it away!** I am buying old stuff. Toys, signs, advertising, oil cans, and much more. Please call or text Doug. 219-616-9342

**Wanted: Vintage mechanic, carpenter tools, postcards,** magazines, signs, radios, knives, automobilia items, records, advertising, etc. Call Lee 219-923-8669

**8 mm movie projector bulb** dfc or dfn 150 watt. 708-837-9814

**Wanted: Boat motor** for canoe, call with offering. 1 HP to 3 HP. Steven 708-748-5698

**Experienced body and paint** man for rust free California car. Needs small dents and dings taken out, 2 fenders. 708-895-1080

**wanted (2) 16 foot garage** door panes (fits 2 car garage door) 219-730-3370

## Automobiles

**1998 Toyota Camry \$1,500;** 2003 Toyota Camry \$3,000; 2004 Toyota Camry \$3,000; 2009 Toyota Camry \$5,500. All run good. 708-351-9906

**2005 Chevy Impala \$2,500;** 2005 Buick Century \$2,500; 2004 Lincoln LS \$2,500; 2007 Pontiac Grand Prix \$3,500; All run good. 708-351-9906

**For sale: 2000 Toyota Avalon** Camry. 200K miles, power-steering-seats-brakes. Fully loaded, everything works. Good winter car. Gold color, \$3,000/obo. 708-460-6035

**For sale: 2004 Lincoln LS \$2500;** 2004 Pontiac Vibe \$2500; 2001 Toyota Camry \$6500; 2009 Toyota Camry \$6500. Clean and runs good. 708-351-9906

**For sale: 2008 Chevy Malibu \$4500;** 2009 Chevy Malibu \$4500; 2008 Pontiac G6 \$3500; 2009 Pontiac G6 \$4000. Clean and runs good. 708-351-9906

**For sale: 2006 Blue Dodge** Caravan, DVD, Leather seats, sun roof, 106k miles, only \$2500. Call. 708-574-4317

## Auto Parts

**Two Magnaflow stainless** mufflers pipe 2 1/4 length 23" inlet/offset outlet/center size 5x9, moderate sound, used three months, \$140 #12255. 219-301-7145

**Chevy Hei electronic** distributor with built in 50k coil, new cond., never used, \$80 obo. 219-844-5057

**14 inch electric radiator fan,** like new, used three months, \$15 obo; two used jack stands, \$8. 219-301-7145

**Caddilac Escalade floor mats,** Weather Tech, black, front, rear, never used, new \$200, now \$75; 2007 to 2014 fits. 708-841-8884

**Lincol Navaitor license plates,** chrome frames \$50 new, now \$20, both nice name Navaitor on plates. 708-841-8884

## Miscellaneous Items For Sale

**For sale: Medium size ski** outfit. Pants, jacket and hat, \$35; Goggles \$6; 3 pair of men's gloves, \$6/ea.; ladies mittens, \$6, all perfect cond. 815-320-6178

**For sale: Mikasa dishes** Garden Club pattern, complete service for 8. Includes serving bowl, cream, and sugar bowl. Perfect cond. \$40. 815-320-6178

**Moving, downsizing. Howard** Miller grandfather clock, chime selection, 1/2 price \$800 or negotiable, about 10-12 yrs. old. 708-672-9479

**Moving, downsizing. Complete** bedroom set. Looks antique, mattress, box spring, headboard, and spread included, bargain \$425. 708-672-9479

**For sale: Electronics, Tablets,** Earphones, etc. www.theonestopshop.store/7616

**Windham white vinyl fence** panels. Never used, original boxes, Home Depot. \$40 ea. 6 ft x 6 ft, no posts. 708-305-0888

**Jiffy padded mailer envelopes** 92 size 6x10, 25 size 10 1/2 x 16, \$25 per lot. 708-494-4880

**For sale: Record player stereo** AM-FM, large speakers, \$100. 708-210-1711

\*\*\*\*\*  
Misc paint supply \$2; drapery  
drapes: set full length \$25;  
23"x42" new vinyl blinds \$5;  
asst. wall art \$5 ea. 708-460-6035

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

Fireplace with log carrier \$5;  
luggage carrier \$5; new 6 pc  
screwdriver set \$2; new  
hammer \$2; glue gun & glue  
\$2; safety glasses \$2. 708-460-6035

Prom, formal dresses, \$10 ea;  
new lavratory faucet & drain  
\$5; heavy weight lifting straps  
\$5; Schick shaver \$5; fireplace  
w/log carrier \$5; luggage  
carrier \$5. 708-460-6035

Ceiling light fixture new black  
cast iron Kichler \$1-\$2 purchases,  
shoes, adult/children, mens  
ladies \$3 ea. 708-460-6035

New hand mixer \$5; multi use  
cart \$15; end tables \$15; table  
lamp \$5; floor lamp, tall \$15;  
wood bookcases \$20 ea. 708-460-6035

Surge protector \$5; 2 sub  
woofers \$15 ea; shower bench  
with back support \$10; cane  
\$3; pillows \$2 ea; wooden  
door \$10. 708-460-6035

Bush trimmer \$5; home and  
yard sprayer \$5; leaf rake \$3;  
shovel \$3; grass shears  
Craftsman 4" \$5; tv stand  
black \$25; dvd player \$25.  
708-460-6035

Mirror, stained glass, \$10;  
steam cleaner, new \$15; Shark  
swift wet mop \$10; Toro super  
blower vac: leaf blower \$51.  
708-460-6035

Guardian walker w wheels \$5;  
cane \$3; moist heat pack \$3;  
arm sling \$2; microphone  
stand \$15; hosemobile with  
hose \$10; yard sprayer \$5.  
708-460-6035

Oil stain/ceiling paint, \$2 per  
drum; air deflector \$2 ea; vent  
hood wide mouth for dryer  
\$2; set of 4 snack tables w  
stand wood \$25. 708-460-6035

Laser printer for computer: all  
in one with toner \$30; Epson  
printer \$15; room size wool  
rugs \$20 ea; drapes: long, \$5  
per panel. 708-460-6035

Tall jewelry chest 9 drawers  
\$50; new 3 qt thermal food  
saver \$5; microwave over the  
range 30" st steel ln \$40; new  
roaster oven 18 qt \$40. 708-460-6035

Bistro set table 2 chairs \$25;  
oak oval coffee table \$25; tall  
oak wall mirror \$15; Sony  
desktop computer Vaio  
complete system \$100;  
computer desk \$25; office  
chair \$25. 708-460-6035

Shark electric wet map \$10;  
fabric steamer \$20; new  
vaporizer \$5; dehumidifier  
\$50; queen elect mattress pad  
\$10; china new serv for 6 \$30.  
708-460-6035

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**\$2 OFF**

your order of  
\$20 or more

**\$3 OFF**

your order of  
\$25 or more

**\$4 OFF**

your order of  
\$30 or more

**OPEN DAILY AT 4PM**

**AURELIO'S PIZZA**

416 Ridge Road, Munster

**219-836-2336**

## Roundball, from page 1

will feature a Hot Shot contest that gives the fifth-grade girls from those teams as well as St. Ann a chance to compete.

A school-wide Food Drive Contest to benefit the Lansing Food Pantry is being held the week leading up to the tournament, with the winning school being announced at the championship game.

Donations from local businesses and individuals cover the costs of the tournament, and proceeds from ticket sales are donated to Lansing charities. The admission price is \$1.00 for child, \$2.00 for adult, or \$5.00 for a family. On the night of the championship game, no admission fee will be charged; instead, Memorial's National Junior Honor Society will collect canned goods for the Lansing Food Pantry.

"Not only does the tournament help various charities," says Rick Seymour, organizer of the event, "it also allows people from all over Lansing to come together and watch the student athletes compete in a friendly neighborhood competition."

All games take place at Memorial

Junior High school, which is located at 2721 Ridge Road in Lansing. Tickets will be available at the door. The concession stand will be open all dates and before the championship game.

Donations for the event can be mailed to Sally Reynolds, Tournament Director, c/o Oak Glen School, 2101 182nd Street in Lansing.

### Roundball Classic Tournament schedule:

#### THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 8

6:00 Heritage v Coolidge  
7:00 Reavis v Lansing Christian

#### FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 9

6:00 Oak Glen v Lansing Christian  
7:00 Reavis v Heritage  
8:00 Coolidge v Oak Glen

#### SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 10

11:00 Lansing Christian v Heritage  
12:00 Oak Glen v Reavis  
1:00 Lansing Christian v Coolidge  
2:00 Heritage v Oak Glen  
3:00 Coolidge v Reavis

#### TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 13

6:30 Award Ceremony  
7:00 Championship Game

## LOCAL CHURCHES

### Bethel Christian Reformed Church



3500 Glenwood-Lansing Rd., Lansing  
708-474-9226  
PASTOR CAL AARDSMA  
PASTOR NICK VAN BEEK  
REV. HERMAN SCHUTT

#### WORSHIP SERVICES

9:30am and 5:00pm  
Church School—9:45am



### First Church

(PCA)

3134 Ridge Rd., Lansing  
708-474-9610  
www.firstchurchpca.org  
BEN KAPPERS, PASTOR

#### WORSHIP SERVICES

Morning Worship—9:30am  
Sunday School—11:00am  
Evening Worship—5:30pm

### Lynwood United Reformed Church



1990 E. Glenwood-Dyer Rd.,  
Lynwood  
708-474-4100  
www.LynwoodURC.org

REV. NICK ALONS PASTOR

#### WORSHIP SERVICES

9:30am and 5:00pm

## CLASSIFIEDS, cont.

2 drawer oak file cabinet \$15; 2 drawer steel file cabinet w lock \$15; Samsonite black lap top bag \$5; asst. luggage \$5; snooze alarm clock \$5. 708-460-6035

Sheers, floor length 2 panels \$10 ea; curtain rod, expandable, \$3; new wet/dry scrub brush \$5; xl elect. food warming tray \$15. 708-460-6035

New 42: under bed organizers \$3 a; foot spa new \$10 scrubs \$2 ea; microwave cart, oak w/storage \$15; new portable grill: charcoal bbq \$10. 708-460-6035

Folding sports chair \$5; 10 page shredder \$15; copy paper \$2/ream; luggage In Jaguar & Lewis/Hide: 2 pc upright w/wheels \$39 was \$279. 708-460-6035

File cabinet, steel 2 drawer \$20; folding table \$15; pipe insulating kits \$2 ea; flooring tiles covers 40 sq ft \$20. 708-460-6035

Heater: DeLonghi \$25; full length mirror, etched glass \$15; slow cooker, lg. red \$10; electric food chopper \$5; new hand mixer, 3 spd \$5. 708-460-6035

Speedqueen gas coin operated dryer \$150 or offer 219-730-3370

Welder Lincoln and Hobart \$250. Bob 219-316-5116

Nails, new in box, roofing, drywall, screws, fence, poultry, 12D, sinkers, common, 330 lbs. 708-210-1711

Record player stereo am-fm, large speakers, \$100. 708-210-1711

Ethan Allen furniture, end tables \$40, love seats \$40, couch \$50, dresser \$45, lamps \$20, headboard and frame \$20. 708-754-0462

Roofing pneumatic nailer \$60; elect. disc grinder \$15. 708-837-9814

Dog-N-Suds and A&W vintage root beer mugs, \$10 ea obo. 708-837-9814

Welding torch Puros W-200 \$100 obo; air acetylene torch \$60, both new with extra tips. 708-837-9814

Star Wars original vintage sound track, 2 vinyl L.P. records with large rare poster \$60 obo. 708-837-9814

Kenwood 600 watt car amp \$50 obo; 1964 Chevrolet am-fm radio with speaker, mounting hardware \$60 obo. 708-837-9814

Fishing poles with close face reels, several to choose from, \$10 ea obo. 708-754-0462

Snow blowers, Craftsman 2 cyc and one 4 cyc; fishing rods and reels \$5 and up; 26" boys bike \$60. 219-776-7399

Fishing pole/ski container for car roof, expensive Thule brand, paid \$400, sell for \$200. 708-418-0725

2 pair steel toe boots, \$65, sz 9, brand new. 219-895-0871

Scooter, electric, can go from MPH brand new, never used. Seat has back and arms. 708-941-3283

Wider home gym, settings 6.5# to 106.5#, exc. cond., manual and exercise chart, size 76 x 38 x 59L \$75. 708-269-6094

Retail Shelving: tear drop white retail shelf units, 54: tall, 48" wide, shelves 15" w 17" w 19" w, base 22" w, best offer. Call 708-717-6134

Car stuff: blue coral upholstery cleaner, \$5; car cover lock kit \$12; soft gray fabric car cover \$39. 708-460-8308

Car stuff: windshield cover, new \$10; 1/2 gal purple car wash, \$3; two micro cleaning towels 15" x 15", \$3. 708-460-8308

Ladies stuff: short hooded jacket, size XL \$15; lite pink 2 pc dress \$15; long black coat w/hood size 8: \$25 708-460-8308

White or kelly green duct tape \$4; 2 0 [c ratcheting gear wrench \$55; 3 in ratcheting clamp \$5; poly emergency tow strap \$12. 708-460-8308

Light bulbs: 12 pk 40 watt soft white \$12; 1960S pen light USA \$3; 2 pk 60 watt LED \$8; bike light set \$8. 708-460-8308

Golden Opportunity entertainment books, NW Indiana & So. Suburbs IL. Fine dining, fast food, services, sports, theater & more. Selling for charity, \$25. 708-917-6829

Paymaster check printer series X-2000 \$15 obo. 708-494-4880

Toledo Model 8186-25 lb counting scale w/ key pad and lb/kg switching, \$200 obo. 708-494-4880

Oki Dot matrix printer microline 490 24 pin printer, \$100 obo. 708-494-4880

# RESUME & CAREER BUILDER WORKSHOP

**FEBRUARY 17, 10AM-1PM**  
300 Jeffery Ave, Calumet City IL



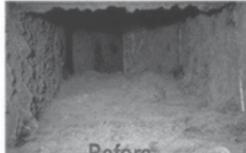
Co-Hosted by  
State Representative  
Marcus C. Evans, Jr.



Hosted by  
Alderman  
DeAndre Tillman, Esq.

Bring your current resumé and laptop!






## \$75 OFF Duct Cleaning

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Cannot be combined with other offers.  
Mention Coupon When Scheduling



- FREE ESTIMATES ON NEW EQUIPMENT
- FINANCING AVAILABLE
- EMERGENCY SERVICE 24/7

### Fully installed web-based thermostat\*

# \$299



\*Additional wiring not included in price. Original price starts at \$383. Mention this ad when scheduling. Expires Feb. 28, 2018



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SPECIAL SERIES: UNDERSTANDING LANSING

# What do the different departments do?

BY MELANIE JONGSMA

LANSING, Ill. (February 5, 2018) - Last month's Understanding Lansing installment introduced readers to some key Lansing positions—

- Lansing voters
- Their chosen elected officials (Mayor, Trustees, and Clerk)
- The Mayor's hired position (Executive Assistant)
- The Mayor's appointed positions (Village Administrator and members of five Boards and Commissions)
- The nine Department Heads appointed by the Village Administrator with consent from the Mayor and the Trustees.

That article is posted at the Understanding Lansing tab at thelansingjournal.com, along with other articles related posts. Future installments of this series will be added as they become available.

## THE DEPARTMENTS

This month we will begin focusing on the nine Village departments, because they interact directly with the public in various ways. Nine departments is a lot to take in at once, so

we'll break them into smaller groups.

The three currently vacant positions are a good group to start with because those three departments work together on existing structures in Lansing and new developments.

### BUILDING DEPARTMENT

The Building Department's main purpose is to ensure the safety of Lansing residents. To that end, their responsibilities include reviewing construction drawings, issuing permits, conducting inspections (including health inspections of restaurants), managing vacant properties, and enforcing village codes that apply to property maintenance. As the head of this department, the Building Commissioner manages a team of four inspectors.

The Building Department can have a positive or negative impact on economic development in Lansing, because businesses and contractors prefer to work with a Commissioner and inspectors who are fair, efficient, responsive, and customer-friendly.

### PUBLIC WORKS

While the Building Department focuses on the systems within individual buildings, Public Works is mainly responsible for the systems that connect buildings throughout the Village—our streets, sidewalks, sewers, water mains,

and other infrastructure. An effective Public Works Superintendent creates a culture of proactive problem-solving within the department, not only responding to calls from residents, but also addressing potential problems before they become issues. Patching potholes, removing downed tree limbs, clearing debris from stormwater grates—these are all small things that prevent larger problems that are more costly to correct.

Just as important, addressing the small things sends a message that Lansing is a community that people are proud to live and work in.

### ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The Director of Economic Development is responsible for enhancing the economic vitality of the Village by attracting new businesses and retaining existing businesses. To accomplish that, an Economic Director must be familiar with Village ordinances, zoning laws, available grants, department budgets, and Lansing's Comprehensive Plan.

The Director of Economic Development actively markets opportunities in Lansing to potential commercial and industrial buyers. Having a proactive Building Department and Public Works Department makes Lansing a much easier sell.

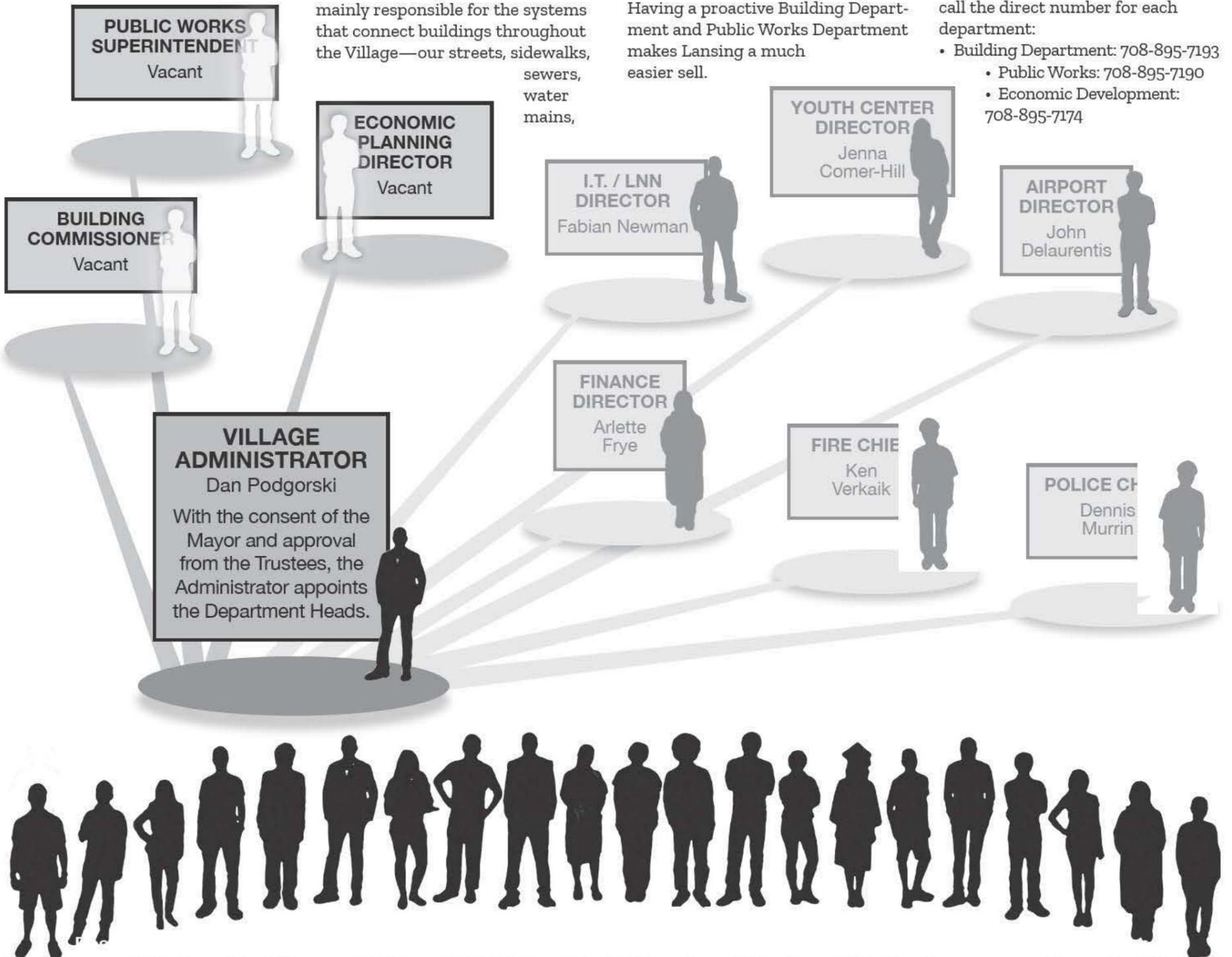
### FILLING THE VACANCIES

Although these three departments are vital to Lansing's health and development, the leadership positions have been vacant for six months or more. Within the realm of Economic Development, Village Administrator Dan Podgorski did hire a firm called JPH Incorporated to provide certain professional services to Lansing for 25–30 hours per month, at approximately \$80 per hour. JPH is not actively marketing Lansing or attempting to attract new business, but they are paid to help with the legal paperwork for projects already in process.

For more detailed information about the responsibilities of the Building Commissioner, Public Works Superintendent, and Economic Development Director—and the qualifications required for these leadership positions—job descriptions can be requested from Village Hall. Applications and resumés can be emailed to [dpodgorski@village-oflansing.org](mailto:dpodgorski@village-oflansing.org).

Residents who have questions, comments, or requests for the Building Department, Public Works, and Economic Development can call the direct number for each department:

- Building Department: 708-895-7193
- Public Works: 708-895-7190
- Economic Development: 708-895-7174



Mayor and Trustees. The Mayor and Village Administrator hire the Department Heads, and the Trustees oversee the work of the departments. The Trustees give a report on all the departments at each Village Board meeting, so residents are encouraged to attend Board meetings to learn about what is being accomplished.

# SUDOKU

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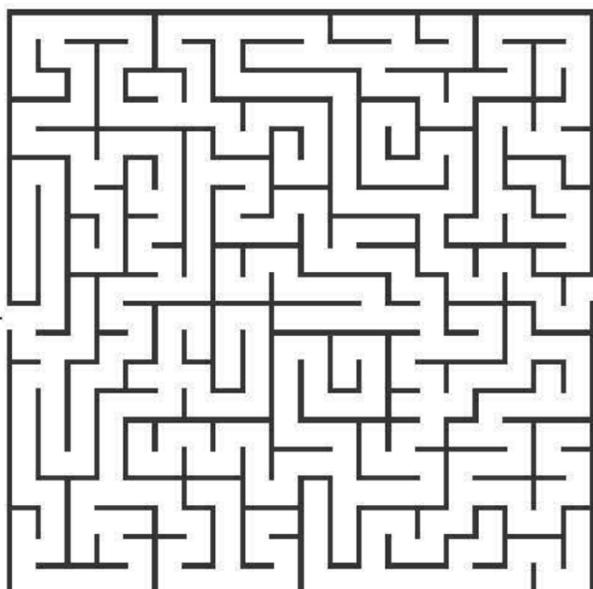
# WORDSEARCH

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M	A	R	J	O	R	A	M	U	S	T	A	R	D	E	H

## Spice Cabinet

allspice	coriander	lime	pepper
anise	cumin	mace	rosemary
basil	dill	marjoram	saffron
caraway	file	mint	sage
cayenne	garlic	mustard	salt
chervil	ginger	nutmeg	sesame
chives	juniper	onion	vanilla
cilantro	horseradish	orange	tarragon
cinnamon	lavender	oregano	thyme
clove	lemon	paprika	turmeric

# SOLVE THE MAZE



# CROSSWORD

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
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	49	50				51		52			53			
54				55	56					57		58		
59			60							61	62			
63										64				
65										66				

## Across

- Intestines' terminal section (pl.)
- Comprehensible
- Erasable programmable read-only memory (acronym)
- Rash-causing shrub (2 wds)
- Like saltwater taffy
- Vehement accusation
- "If only \_\_\_ listened..." (contraction)
- Generous bestowal of gifts
- Blue
- Give off, as light
- Equal
- Bad day for Caesar
- Comeback
- Black
- Sidekick
- "I had no \_\_\_!"
- Auto parts giant
- Parachute straps
- Causing fear
- "... or \_\_\_!"
- "My bad!"
- White, oblong, ecclesiastical vestment
- Big name in computers
- Foil (2 wds)
- Bummed out
- Bow
- Stallion, once
- "Comprede?"
- Skin art (pl.)
- \_\_\_ Clemente
- Collective body of bishops
- A-list
- Lowest
- Mechanical routines
- Those who live in a place
- Bottomless pit

## Down

- Lavishly elegant
- Fleeting
- Those to whom money is owed
- Haul
- \_\_\_ nitrate
- Cathedral topper
- Bowed ceremoniously
- Channel bottoms
- A Swiss army knife has lots of them
- Alarm bell
- Amazon, e.g.
- Idaho's capital
- They go with the flow
- Barely managed, with "out"
- Appropriate
- Vintage auto rear seating compartment
- Forceful
- "The Catcher in the \_\_\_"
- Move forward by rowing
- Quarantine
- Fattiness
- Embezzles
- Skillful performance
- Absorb, with "up"
- Ring bearer, maybe
- Most cheeky
- Small bell-shaped bomb
- Even if, briefly
- Switzerland's capital
- City on the Aire
- Charges
- Cowboy boot attachment
- #1 spot
- "Buona \_\_\_" (Italian greeting)
- "Fantasy Island" prop
- Court ploy

**Turn of Phrase:** Don't Cry Over Spilt Milk means you can't change the past, so it's best to move on. Since milk is a valuable food, it's deemed an unfortunate waste to spill it—but not a tragedy. This figure of speech goes back before 1659, when it was recorded in a book of well-known proverbs.

## SOLUTIONS

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

Engagements, Weddings, Anniversaries, Births, Birthdays, Military Commissions, and Congratulations are free and run in The Shopper each week. Announcements are accepted by e-mail at general@myshopper.biz. Deadline is Friday at 4:00 p.m. for the following Wednesday's edition. The Shopper reserves the right to edit all content.

# STEEL FEB 22 - MAR 25

## Magnolias



Actors Landree Fleming and Heidi Kettering

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Save big with groups of 11+

See the *Steel Magnolias* story on page 22!

# CELEBRATING 95 YEARS OF SERVING LANSING!



Back: Kent Wagenaar, Dan Derks, Jim Janssen, Norman Abbott  
Front: Lisa Eitzen, Tammi Pflugradt, Cindy Juarez, Donna Lesniewski, Cheryl Abbott

The Walter W. Schultz Insurance Agency was founded on January 23, 1923, by Walter W. Schultz and his father Charles C. Schultz. The business operated for many years under the name Charles C. Schultz and Son and originally consisted of dry goods, shoes, a Post Office, insurance, and real estate.

The dry goods and shoe business was phased out in the 1930s. The Post Office operation was moved to Hartfield's Delicatessen in 1951. The real estate business was discontinued in the 1960s. As Lansing grew, so did the insurance business.

After the passing of Walter (1981) and Cherrie (1991) Schultz, the Agency was run by their daughter and son-in-law, Diane and Norman Abbott, until Diane's passing in July 2006. The agency is still owned by Norman and is run by their daughter Cheryl. It is the oldest family-owned business in Lansing.

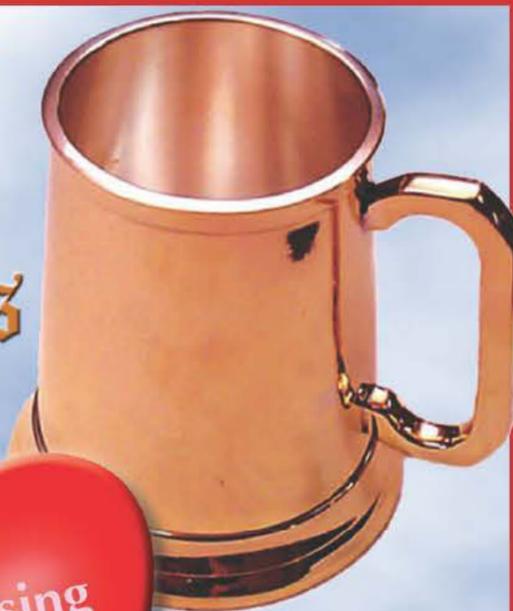
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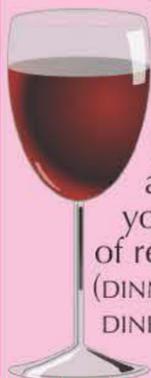
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# Steel Magnolias to open in Munster

February 25 is Opening Night at Theatre at the Center



From left: Cory Goodrich as M'Lynn, Myesha-Tiara as Annelle, Landree Fleming as Shelby, and Heidi Ketterring as Truvy bring *Steel Magnolias* to Munster. (Photo: Guy Rhodes)

BY BIG SPLASH PR

MUNSTER, Ind. (February 2, 2018) - Cory Goodrich in the role of M'Lynn, Landree Fleming as Shelby, and Heidi Ketterring as Truvy, lead the cast of Theatre at the Center's *Steel Magnolias* with Joslyn Yvonne Jones as Ouiser, Jeannie Affelder as Clairee, and Myesha-Tiara as Annelle. Previews begin February 22 with Opening Night on February 25 for the show's run through March 25.

*Steel Magnolias*, written by Robert Harling, is a hilarious and heart-warming play set in a Louisiana beauty shop. It follows the hopes, dreams, triumphs, and tragedies of six colorful characters. The play inspired the 1989 film starring Julia Roberts, Sally Field, Shirley MacLaine, Daryl Hannah, Olympia Dukakis, and Dolly Parton. The story explores the bond between a mother and daughter, and the friendships of those who feel like family.

"Before *Steel Magnolias* became an iconic film and garnered an Academy Award for Julia Roberts, it was a funny and touching off-Broadway play about the bonds of friendship and family," said Theatre at the Center Artistic Director Linda Fortunato, who will direct this new production of *Steel Magnolias*. "I believe TATC audiences will laugh and cry with these ladies and find a connection to their own lives as well."

## THE CAST

Cory Goodrich returns to TATC for her 13th production, having previously appeared in *Women On the Verge of a Nervous Breakdown* and *Ring of Fire: The Music of Johnny Cash*. She won a Jeff Award for her role of June Carter in *Ring of Fire* and another Jeff Award for her role as Mother in Drury Lane's production

of *Ragtime*. As a singer/songwriter, Cory has four solo albums.

Landree Fleming is returning to TATC where she was last seen in *Godspell* and *The 25th Annual Putman County Spelling Bee*. She has worked at Drury Lane, Paramount, and Chicago Shakespeare, among other Chicagoland theaters and is a member of the comedy group Off Off Broadway.

Heidi Ketterring returns to TATC where she was seen in *Annie Warbucks*, *I Do! I Do!*, and *Here's Love!* She is a Jeff Award winner in addition to having received several Jeff nominations, the Sarah Siddons Chicago Leading Lady Award, an After Dark Award, and the Richard M. Kneeland Award.

Joslyn Yvonne Jones has appeared in *Once On This Island* at Marriott Lincolnshire, *Weekend at TimeLine Theatre*, and *Escape* at Live Bait Theatre. She now makes her TATC debut.

Jeannie Affelder has appeared in *Silent Sky* at First Folio and *The Little Flower of East Orange* at Eclipse, which earned her a Jeff Nomination for Best Actress. She is making her TATC debut, as is Myesha-Tiara, who has been seen in *The Wedding Band* at The Artistic Home and *Netflix & Kill* at the Pride Arts Center. Myesha-Tiara was also featured in the film *12 Years a Slave*.

## THE DIRECTOR

Linda Fortunato is director of *Steel Magnolias*. She has been involved with more than a dozen shows at TATC, including directing *Big River*, *The Tin Woman*, *Cabaret*, *Annie Warbucks*, and *A Christmas Story*. She choreographed *Spamalot*, *Big Fish*, *A Christmas Carol*, *Guys and Dolls*, *Crazy for You*, and *Fiddler on*

*the Roof*. And she performed in *Lend Me a Tenor* and *The Diary of Anne Frank*. Fortunato has been nominated for five Joseph Jefferson Awards for her work as a choreographer and director. She received both the Equity and Non-Equity Jeff Awards for Outstanding Choreography, including garnering Theatre at the Center's first Jeff Award for her choreography of *42nd Street*.

Fortunato as TATC's Artistic Director is teamed with Richard Friedman as General Manager and Ann Davis as Head of Production.

## THE CREATIVE TEAM

The creative team for *Steel Magnolias* includes Scenic Designer Greg Pinsonneault, Lighting Designer Michael Trudeau, and Costume Designer Brenda Winstead. Wig Design and Hair Design are by Kevin Barthel, Prop Design is by Brittney O'Keefe, and Sound Design

is by Barry Funderburg. The Stage Manager is Jessica Banaszak.

## TICKET INFORMATION

Performances are 2:00pm on Wednesdays and Thursdays; 7:30pm on Fridays; 3:00pm and 7:30pm on Saturdays; and 3:00pm on Sundays, with select Thursday and Sunday night performances.

Individual ticket prices range from \$42-\$46. To purchase individual tickets, call the Box Office at 219-836-3255 or Tickets.com at 800-511-1532. Group discounts are available for groups of 11 or more. Gift certificates are also available.

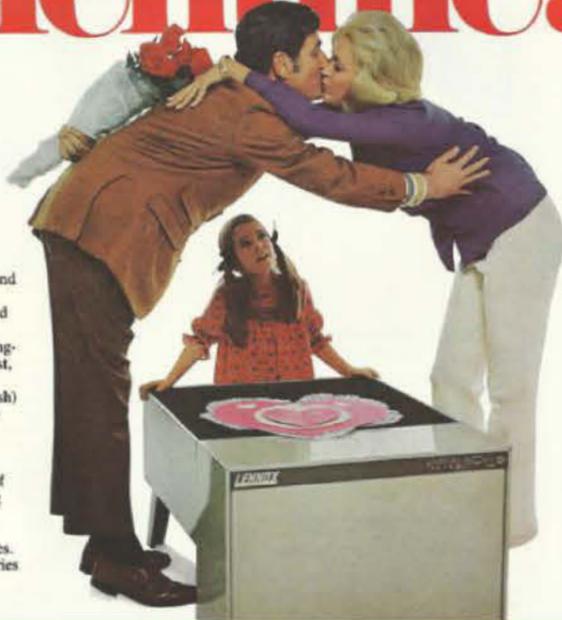
Theatre at the Center is located within The Center for Visual and Performing Arts at 1040 Ridge Road, Munster, Indiana. For more information on Theatre at the Center, visit [www.TheatreAtTheCenter.com](http://www.TheatreAtTheCenter.com).

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# Illiana's first male cheerleader defies boundaries, gravity

## Teammates welcome Christopher Bass to "the cheer family"

BY BETH BOONSTRA, ILLIANA JOURNALISM STUDENT



Christopher Bass (back row, left), pictured here with his cheer family, is Illiana's first male cheerleader. (Photo provided by Deb Kamp)

LANSING, Ill. (January 2018) – Illiana's newest up-and-coming cheerleader is a flexible jumper, a quick learner, and a trailblazer—Illiana's first and only male cheerleader. Junior Christopher Bass may not wear a bow and glitter, but he cheers just as fiercely as the rest.

"Chris is an incredible asset to our team," said cheer coach Carisa Beezhold. "He has amazing jumps, is now tumbling at an advanced level, and adds stability to our stunts and pyramids." She said that the girls were now working harder on their jumps just to try to keep up with him.

Surprisingly, Bass has not had any gymnastics experience other than personal stretching, but he has cheer experience, and many of his family and friends do cheer. They encouraged him to join this year, so he did.

Bass participates in everything except for the poms routines. The dance choreographer for the team has intentionally avoided hip swings or other moves for Bass's sake.

Cheer captain Gracie Bultema said, "Everyone thought something was wrong. They didn't like a coed team because it's out of the ordinary. I feel like the Loud Crowd game was a chance for Chris to show the school his skills. He did amazing, and I hope that people will respect him for choosing the cheer team because he has worked so hard to be where he is now."

Junior cheerleader Lily Gerstner has received feedback on both ends of the spectrum. Comments have ranged from, "Wow, that boy is really good," to, "Hey, is that boy on your team gay?" Gerstner, along with the rest of the team, has never felt uncomfortable with the situation. "He knows his job and does it with the most respect possible," she said.

Bass has come to accept the negative feedback. "Some people may take it well, some people may not. For me it's consistent, so it's just 'whatever' at this point. I just deal with it...."

Bultema notices a difference in team dynamics having a male on the team. "The team definitely has to be careful of how our feelings and emotions come out. We used to talk about relationship problems and our feelings."

Gerstner said, "There is nothing different to me. His smile, personality, and sass is what makes Christopher Bass himself. Being a boy doesn't stop him from doing what he loves. Yes, of course we are used to an all-girl team, but we don't love each other for being girls; we love each other because we are a cheer family."

Beezhold said, "One lady actually came down out of the stands at a competition to tell Caitlyn, the assistant coach, how impressed she was with his jumps, not only the height but also his technique. At the Seneca tournament, the fans for the opposing team wanted him to jump during timeouts they enjoyed watching him so much."

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