

THE LANSING JOURNAL

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Unity comes to Lansing Reggae and rainstorms bring people together

BY MELANIE JONGSMA

LANSING, Ill. (June 26, 2019) - It started out like most other Fox Pointe concerts in the summer series. The first dry, warm Wednesday in three weeks brought the crowds onto the lawn as well as under the pavilion to hear Unity the Band, an award-winning roots, rock, and reggae group from Appleton, Wisconsin. Unity lead singer Pita Katobalavu seemed to personally enjoy interacting with the audience between songs, acknowledging Chicago as the House of Blues before

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Pita Katobalavu (right), lead singer of Unity the Band, encourages Lansing Mayor Patty Eidam during a Fox Pointe concert that was partially rained out on June 26. (Photo: Melanie Jongsma)



35th annual History Walk draws record crowd



Paul Schultz has been doing Lansing History Walks for 35 years. (Photo: Carrie Steinweg)



Dr. Wes Molenaar grew up in the house next to Walgreens. (Photo: Melanie Jongsma)



Paul Schultz (far right) explains the historical marker outside Gus Bock's Ace Hardware. (Photo: Melanie Jongsma)

BY CARRIE STEINWEG

LANSING, Ill. (June 27, 2019) - There's a group of about 120 people who will probably never look at Ridge Road the same as they drive or walk down the main street in downtown Lansing. Those individuals were guests on an annual tour hosted by the Lansing Historical Society on June 24. They spent about two hours listening to dates and names, historical facts, and fun stories of Lansing's past.

SHARING MEMORIES

After a rainy day, the skies seemed to clear just in time for lifelong resident Paul Schultz to lead his 35th annual History Walk. Retired from 35 years with the postal service, Schultz spent much of his career on a route along Ridge Road, dropping letters and packages at each address and getting to know the residents and business owners he encountered each day.

He has also lived in Lansing all his life. The doctor who delivered him on Christmas Day had an office on Ridge Road. He walked to school and rode his bike on the streets of Lansing, but in a different era. He remembers victory gardens being planted during

World War II. He remembers Lansing "before the expressway." In his head are the faces and events that have shaped the village over the last 80 years. He's always eager to share his knowledge and memories, and he does so each year as he leads a group on his traditional History Walk.

CHANGING THINGS UP

Two things were a bit different on this year's walk. For one, the crowd far outnumbered any in the past. The previous largest crowd was about 60 people, and some years only a handful of curious residents show up for the walk, though typically the group is 25-35 members strong, according to members of the Lansing Historical Society.

Schultz also altered the route a little this year. Usually the walk has started from the parking lot behind Gayety's Ice Cream and Candy and moved to the east, ending around Grant Street. This year, the walk began in the parking lot behind Kilroy's Pub, moving over to Wentworth Avenue and then crossing Ridge Road and heading west.

Two other Lansing residents, Herb Krumm and Dr. Wesley Molenaar, added some commentary. Krumm's

family owned the first documented business in Lansing, the Union Hotel, which stood at the southwest corner of Ridge Road and Wentworth Avenue. Molenaar grew up in a home on the north side of Ridge Road that is still serving as a family business—an eye care practice and legal offices. Krumm pointed out some houses on the east side of Wentworth that his grandfather had built for his daughters and an apartment building that used to house St. John's Lutheran School. Molenaar talked about how common it was to leave doors unlocked when he was growing up and how he could see all the way to the Little Calumet River from his mother's kitchen window.

FAMILY AND NEIGHBORS

As Schultz welcomed the large crowd he said, "When I was a kid, when you went outside you saw one of two people—either a neighbor or a relative." He then encouraged people to shake hands and introduce themselves to someone on either side of them. Within the crowd were many people who were familiar with Schultz—either members of his family, neighbors, former schoolmates, or those who

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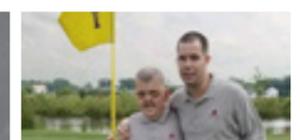
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MAKING HISTORY

Paul Schultz named Village Historian

Lifelong Lansing resident and annual History Walk guide acknowledged in official proclamation

BY JOSH BOOTSMA

LANSING, Ill. (June 21, 2019) – During the June 18 Village Board Meeting, Mayor Patty Eidam made an official proclamation naming lifelong Lansing resident Paul Schultz as Village Historian and declaring June 24 of this year to be “Paul Schultz Day.” Schultz is a member of the Lansing Historical Society and was joined at the meeting by a large handful of other members.

Mayor Eidam read the following proclamation:

This is a proclamation by the Village of Lansing, Illinois.

Whereas Mr. Paul Schultz was born and raised in the Village of Lansing and has lived here all his life,

And whereas Mr. Schultz delivered United States mail in Lansing for 34 years,

And whereas Paul has a wealth of knowledge of Lansing history,

And whereas he shares his knowledge every year with Lansing during the



Mayor Patty Eidam (left) read an official proclamation naming Paul Schultz Village Historian. (Photo: Melanie Jongsma)

recognize Paul’s extreme dedication to Lansing and the Lansing Historical Society,

I officially name Mr. Paul Schultz Village Historian and furthermore do declare June 24, 2019, as “Paul Schultz Day.”

Now therefore I, Patricia L. Eidam, Mayor of the Village of Lansing, do honor and recognize Mr. Paul Schultz for his continued efforts to save Lansing’s past for its future. It is with great gratitude and respect that I acknowledge the work of Mr. Paul Schultz and the Lansing Historical Society and present to them this formal expression of admiration and support.

Lansing Historical Society “Walk on Ridge” every fourth Monday in June,

And whereas June 24th, 2019, will mark 35 years that Paul has shared his passion for Lansing history at the annual “Walk on Ridge,”

And whereas we

Following Mayor Eidam’s proclamation, Schultz said: “I want to thank the Village. I did this History Walk because I enjoyed sharing my hometown with folks. I’m born and raised in Lansing, and I kind of miss that neighborhood feel the Village used to have and so forth, but I still love to talk about it. So I want to thank the Village and I want to thank folks, I want to thank the [Historical] Society. Thank you.”



Members of the Lansing Historical Society attended the meeting. (Photo: Josh Bootsma)



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Royalty visits Lansing, Illinois

Crown Prince Alexander and Crown Princess Katherine attend banquet at Serbian Social Center

BY KATIE ARVIA

LANSING, Ill. (June 24, 2019) – It's not every day that royalty visits Lansing. On June 14, Crown Prince Alexander and Crown Princess Katherine of Serbia visited St. Archangel Michael Orthodox Church and the Serbian Social Center. They were guests of honor at a banquet recognizing two major milestones: HRH Katherine's humanitarian organization Lifeline celebrated 25 years of service, and the Three Kolos (the Serbian women's group sponsoring the event) marked 10 years of working with and donating to Lifeline's efforts.

The June 14 banquet at the Serbian Social Center was held to raise both funds and awareness and featured food, music, dance performances, and a silent auction.

THE NEED FOR A LIFELINE

Lifeline was founded in 1993 by Princess Katherine, who credits her parents with teaching her selflessness: "I was very lucky that I had parents who taught me the joy of giving, not the joy of taking. My parents were big philanthropists; my father was one of the biggest philanthropists in Greece, so I grew up in a home where we thought of others, not ourselves," she said. The organization has satellite offices in Chicago, New York, London, Toronto, and Athens.

After a war left Serbia in disarray during the 1990s, social services suffered greatly. "[Serbia is] still feeling that effect today. The governmental institutions are recovering, the economy is improving, but still...social services are always in need of assistance," explained current Lifeline Chicago President Milena Tatic Bajich.

Milena Tatic Bajich is Lifeline's Chicago President. (Photo: Chris Book)



For the past 25 years, Lifeline has been working to provide aid to orphanages, schools, elderly homes, shelters, and institutions across the country. The Three Kolos, made up of women from Lansing and Joliet, have taken on numerous projects over the past decade to further Lifeline and their mission. This past year alone, the group has contributed to over 10 unique projects, including an adult shelter, a monastery, and several orphanages.

The group donated food, skin care products, diapers, toys, and more. They also finished "Project Blinds," which replaced window coverings at a Belgrade orphanage that houses over 250 children.

PHENOMENAL FUNDRAISERS

Bajich described the Three Kolos as "phenomenal" and cited their tireless efforts to give back to the Serbian people. "They've just been so instrumental in raising funds during the course of the year," she said. "They fed 300 families in Kosovo.... They were able to create a life for some children that otherwise could not be fed. They've worked really hard."

Mileva Gvojcic, who has attended St. Archangel Michael church her entire life and is the President and dance teacher of the Lansing Folklore Group "Kolo," said, "It's an honor to be able to give back to the community I grew up in. I think it's extremely important to give to those in need and less fortunate than you. I'm a huge advocate for children's rights and wellbeing, so this event is extremely important to me."

Despite the incredible work both groups have done, sending supplies to Serbia is not always an easy task. Debbie Keen, who has been involved with the Three Kolos since 2014, explained that in order to ensure that donations have the greatest impact in Serbia, they accept only monetary contributions, which are then sent to Lifeline, which works directly with organizations who are providing for people's needs.

"I just think it's such a good organization that does so many good things," Keen said. "We have the best women that give their time [and] their money. This is very dear to my heart; I always get choked up because we do a lot of good for a lot of kids.... We don't

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Wikipedia explains that Crown Prince Alexander "is the heir to the defunct throne of the Kingdom of Yugoslavia and currently claimant to the abolished throne of the precursor Kingdom of Serbia. He held the position of crown prince in the Democratic Federal Yugoslavia for the first four-and-a-half months of his life, from his birth until the declaration of the Federal People's Republic of Yugoslavia later in 1945." Alexander married Katherine in 1985. Crown Princess Katherine has dedicated much of her time to charitable activities since the conflict in former Yugoslavia. She is the patron of various humanitarian organizations, including Lifeline. (Photo provided)



Members of the Three Kolo group pose with the Crown Prince and Princess. From left: Danielle Serdar, Joan Jakovich, Norma Janich, HRH Princess Katherine, HRH Prince Alexander, Helen Malinovich, Deb Keen, Desa Radowick, Ljubi Hayden, Milena Tintor Nolan, Carol Dykterok, Dawn Anderson, and Melanie Evancevich. (Photo: Chris Book)

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TOPICS DISCUSSED

Legislative update | End of session overview | Legalizing Cannabis
Gaming Expansion | State Budget | Minimum Wage
Reproductive Health Act | Infrastructure Plan

Invited Guests include:


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Robert Polk


Mayor - City of Cabernet City
Michelle Markiewicz Qualkinbush


Mayor - Village of Lansing
Patty Eidam


Mayor - Village of Lynwood
Eugene Williams


Mayor - Village of Six Village
Derrick Burgess

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Village Board considers Off Track Betting as revenue source in north Lansing

BY MELANIE JONGSMA

LANSING, Ill. (June 20, 2019) – “Entertainment, hospitality, restaurants—those are ‘in,’” explained Administrator Dan Podgorski to the Village Board at the Committee of the Whole meeting on Tuesday, June 18. He was asking Trustees to consider a proposal from Dave Hoffman and Terence Dunleavy of Hawthorne Race Course Inc. “We are a major interchange along 80/94,” said Podgorski, “and wherever possible we want to add some amenities and entertainment options for people who are coming into Lansing—and also for residents who live here and in the surrounding area.”

Hawthorne Race Course Inc./Voska Ventures LLC was on the agenda to request a full liquor license for the new business they want to open at 2 River Place, Unit G, near the LifeSource/Vitalant blood donation center. Hoffman and Dunleavy had approached Podgorski 10 months ago and expressed a desire to expand their Off Track Betting offerings into Lansing. “They liked our market,” said Podgorski. “They liked our proximity to Indiana, and also the 80/94 corridor.”

Off Track Betting, known commonly as OTB, is licensed gambling on horse racing outside a race track.

Podgorski had lunch with Hoffman and Dunleavy at their Off Track Betting location in Manteno, Illinois, several months ago. He described the setting to the Trustees as “basically a sports bar and restaurant, and I think it’s gonna be a great addition to Lansing.” Hawthorne Race Course Inc. also has Off Track Betting locations

in Oak Brook Terrace, Crestwood, Joliet, Glendale Heights, and Ottawa, Illinois.

In their presentation to the Board, Hoffman and Dunleavy affirmed that they are interested in the 2590-square-foot property in River Plaza. Showing photos of the Manteno location as an example, they explained that a large bar will be the focus of the new business, and it will be surrounded by booths and carrels equipped with monitors on which sporting events and track races could be broadcast from around the world.

Hawthorne anticipates that their proposed venue will also become a social gathering place for occasions such as the Kentucky Derby, Triple Crown, and Breeders Cup. Hoffman mentioned that they opened their Ottawa location just before Derby Day, and

“quite a few” people came out to celebrate the event.

Though Podgorski referred to the proposed business as a “restaurant,” Hoffman and Dunleavy told the Board, “We’ll start off with bar food as the menu, and then we’ll expand as we go further into the operation,” but they did not provide a specific timeline for when the operation might reach restaurant status.

REVENUE PROJECTIONS

Hawthorne Race Course Inc. has projected “about \$6 million” in pari-mutuel wagering handle (total bets received) at the proposed Lansing location. The gaming expansion bill (SB 690)—which Governor Pritzker has indicated he will sign—will increase the maximum number of video gaming machines from five to six per licensed location, so Hawthorne

anticipates that the handle at their facilities will double or even triple.

Video gaming revenue is projected to be \$750,000.

Dunleavy later clarified that Lansing’s share of the video gaming revenues will be 5%, and of the pari-mutuel revenues will be 7%.

Revenue projections related to food and beverage sales are \$150,000.

QUESTIONS FROM THE TRUSTEES

Following the presentation by Podgorski, Dunleavy, and Hoffman, Trustees asked a number of questions. Those questions and Hawthorne’s answers are provided below:

Trustee Maureen Grady-Perovich: “Are you limited in the
continued, next page



Hawthorne Race Course Inc. is requesting a full liquor license for the Off Track Betting business they want to open at 2 River Place, Unit G, a few doors down from Ron’s Reels Slots & Poker, which requested and was granted a liquor license in August of 2017. (Photo: Melanie Jongsma)

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number of video gaming machines?"

Hoffman: "Yes we are—5, and 6 with the new bill."

Trustee Saad Abbasy: "Will Hawthorne have any participation when sports betting becomes legal, and if so will that become a part of this Lansing location?"

Dunleavy: "Yes, Hawthorne is awarded a sports book license...that is granted by the Gaming Board. Once that occurs, the law further provides that 3 of its current 16 OTB licenses may have a sports book. So I know that Hawthorne has a very keen eye on the Indiana border, for the purposes of placing that sports book in the right place. I can't commit; I'm just the lawyer, but that is certainly in the plan."

Trustee Mike Fish: "Could you define "bar food"? Is it, like, frozen pizzas?"

Hoffman: "Yes, I think we start with a TurboChef [oven] and microwaveable appetizers, and it expands into a little bit of a kitchen area. And this will be done in steps."

Trustee Jerry Zeldenrust: "I have a question about revenues. The numbers that you're talking about, the profit numbers, what percentage of that winds up being a benefit to the Village?"

Dunleavy: "For the video gaming revenues, the municipality receives 5%, and for the pari-mutuel revenues it's 7%. ...We project the first year \$100,000 for the village."

Trustee Abbasy: "I'm a little curious about your projected timeline for going to a full service restaurant. Is it, like, a one-year timeline?"

Hoffman: "That really hasn't been determined. That timeline has not been developed."

Trustee Zeldenrust: "Can you talk a little bit about how gambling actually works? I was reading up on this, and I read that in Quincy the people don't have a clue about how to bet, so [gambling] didn't really turn into money, either for them or for the town. But in Grayville they're very horse savvy, and they're makin' a ton. So how does that work, and how does that affect revenue?"

Dunleavy: "There really are two forms of gaming.

Race tracks are pari-mutuel, which is essentially 'we bet amongst ourselves.' The state takes their cut across the top, and then the odds determine who gets what, but essentially we're all betting amongst ourselves, the pari-mutuel pool. That pool increases with the amount of dollars that go into it, so the more savvy horse players will raise that number. The tax to the community is directly tied to the projected handle. Handle is tied also to the quality of horses that run on the track. What Bill 690 will do is dramatically increase purses for the horsemen that will run at Hawthorne, and therefore increase the quality of the horses, which will attract more bettors to bet on horses. Video gaming is our random number generators—each machine has a random number generator that automatically resets after each play. A lot of people think, 'Oh, that's my lucky machine,' but that's fallacy. It's a random number generator that resets every time. And there's a set payout that cannot be less than 80%."

Hoffman: "Most of our machines at the OTB locations, the BGTs are averaging about 91.5% payout. So 92¢ of every dollar bet is returned."

Dunleavy: "And the current state average for BGT is approximately a \$140 win. So that means by machine, per day, the average across the state is \$140, each actual individual device."

Trustee Fish: "What are your hours, and are you open seven days a week?"

Hoffman: "Open seven days a week, and the hours will be tied to the pouring hours of your liquor license. So that would be 8:00 in the morning until midnight, 2:00am, whatever the liquor ordinance allows."

Dunleavy: "Keep in mind that racing is worldwide, and the signal is coming in, so you can bet on L'Arc de Triomphe from France, you can bet on Hong Kong Jockey Club, you can bet in Japan, etc. So for an 'hours' perspective, that's the kind of need you have to fully expand your offering."

Trustee Abbasy: "Will Hawthorne be sharing revenues from the new proposed 'racino' racetrack in the six or seven townships in the south suburbs?"

Dunleavy: "Yes, SB 690 provides for two licenses

associated with pari-mutuel. One does actually go to Hawthorne. I mean, it's not said in the bill, but the definition is there. So Hawthorne receives a gaming license that they have to file with the IGB, but once that's achieved, then Hawthorne Race Track will convert into what's called a 'racino'—casino, race track—where slot machines will be placed therein. In addition there is an authorization for yet another standardbred trotters race track in the five townships south of Chicago, of which this is one. So somewhere in that range another standardbred track is authorized to be built."

VOTING ON THE LICENSE

The New Business Request for Full Liquor License will be placed on the July Board meeting agenda for vote. Because of the July 4 holiday, the next meeting is scheduled for July 16 at 7:00pm at the Municipal Court Complex (the police station), 2710 170th Street.

Lansing residents who have questions about Off Track Betting, video gaming, or Hawthorne Race Course may contact their elected officials, who have been researching the issues surrounding this request. Trustee email addresses and phone numbers are listed on the Village website, though occasionally messages left at the assigned phone numbers do not get through to the intended Trustee:

- Mayor Patty Eidam: peidam@villageoflansing.org or 708-895-7208
- Administrator Dan Podgorski: dpodgorski@villageoflansing.org or 708-895-7202
- Trustee Mike Fish: mfish@villageoflansing.org or 708-832-4568
- Trustee Maureen Grady-Perovich: mgradyperovich@villageoflansing.org or 708-832-4563
- Trustee Saad Abbasy: sabbasy@villageoflansing.org or 708-832-4569
- Trustee Jerry Zeldenrust: jzeldenrust@villageoflansing.org or 708-832-4570
- Trustee Brian Hardy: bhardy@villageoflansing.org or 708-832-4564
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VILLAGE OF SOUTH HOLLAND

Public Works Department

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Public Works Worker

Essential Function:

Performs a variety of skilled and semi-skilled tasks in the construction, maintenance and improvement of public properties, facilities, and infrastructure (water, sewer, streets, parkway, and storm sewer systems), including landscaping and building maintenance.

Specific areas of responsibility include, but are not limited to:

- Street paving, striping, patching, maintenance and restoration
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- Class C water operator license and the knowledge of tools, materials and equipment used in water/sewer treatment is preferred.

Application:

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VILLAGE OF SOUTH HOLLAND

Police Department

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Upgrading the Patti Leach Youth Center

“An opportunity for churches, community to work together”

BY MELANIE JONGSMA

LANSING, Ill. (June 27, 2019) – “The program is expanding,” reported Trustee Jerry Zeldenrust at the June 18 Committee of the Whole meeting. He was reporting on Love for Lansing,

the volunteer effort that he initiated at his church—First Church PCA—as a way to address community needs he became aware of in his work as Village Trustee. “We’ve got several churches involved now,” he told the Board. Those churches form a loose network of a

variety of skills and interests, so there is a growing body of volunteers available for special projects.

WORKING TOGETHER

One of those churches is New Hope Church (3642 Lake Street). Rich Smits is a member there, and in a May meeting with several other churches he heard Zeldenrust mention that the Village had recently hired a new Director for the Patti Leach Youth Center. The new Director, Aneisha Titsworth, has hopes for updating and improving the look of the Youth Center, and Smits is a retired architect who wants to use his experience to help his community.

Smits met with Titsworth and listened to her hopes and vision. He wrote up a list of the physical changes she had in mind for the building, and he went so far as to make a design proposal for the front elevation and entry of the building. “What he produced was quite amazing,” said Zeldenrust.

As a further step, Smits listed the volunteer skills he thought would be necessary to do the work. Tasks such as constructing the low retaining wall, the galvanized steel-lined planter, and the aluminum canopy might require professional skilled labor, but other manual labor could probably be accomplished by volunteers with some supervision and instruction.

MORE WITH LESS

It is currently budget season in Lansing, and preparing the annual budget for approval by the deadline involves “non-stop” meetings between the administration and all the department heads, Zeldenrust explained. Respectful of the pressure they are already under, he is waiting for schedules to clear before asking for a meeting about the Youth Center project.

Even without knowing the final budget for the Youth Center, Zeldenrust is optimistic that the project will be approved, particularly because there are volunteers like Smits who have demonstrated a willingness to invest time and skills. Just as the Santa House was constructed by skilled volunteers out of donated brick, shingles, windows, and other materials—so that no budget monies were spent—Zeldenrust is hopeful that something similar might

be accomplished for Lansing’s youth. He has seen Lansing come together not only for the Santa House, but also for Community Clean-Up Day and two years of Love for Lansing projects, and he appreciates that volunteer spirit.

“I think it is safe to say that the administration would appreciate and support the efforts of our church groups who are reaching out to help improve things at the Youth Center,” he said. “That has been expressed in the past, and I know it fits with the ongoing effort to ‘do more with less’ as it pertains to limited moneys and competing needs.”

SUPPORTING THE YOUTH

The drawings have not been officially approved, so the proposed upgrade is still only in the idea stage. Zeldenrust believes if the project could be done at no cost to the Village, approval would be imminent.

Smits is eager to get started, and he knows Titsworth is as well. “I see this as an opportunity for the churches and the community to work together,” he said.

Zeldenrust agrees, and he is hoping that other civic organizations might be willing to join the project too, either with skilled labor or donations of materials and finances.

“We’d like to get some workers over there to start takin’ some action,” said Zeldenrust. “But it always boils down to money. The churches may have some of the skilled manpower needed, and others can help with painting and plantings out front, but contributions will make it go a lot quicker.”

People who are interested in contributing to or volunteering for the Youth Center makeover may contact Trustee Jerry Zeldenrust directly:

- jzeldenrust@villageoflansing.org
- 708-474-9610

A color drawing of the proposed enhancements to the front of the building is included in the online version of this story. Visit www.thelansingjournal.com and search for “Upgrading the Youth Center.” In addition, an article introducing Director Aneisha Titsworth and her vision for the Patti Leach Youth Center was posted online on May 27, 2019.

Angel Academy Preschool to celebrate 20 years at Lansing location

BY NATALIE TOGTMAN



LANSING, Ill. (June 28, 2019) – This upcoming school year, Angel Academy will celebrate its 20-year anniversary of being located in Lansing. From the brick building at the north edge of the First Church (PCA) parking lot, Angel Academy is dedicated to serving preschool-aged children and their families.

Angel Academy was originally located in Munster, Indiana. Unfortunately, one July, just weeks before the start of the school year, the pastor of St. Luke’s Lutheran Church informed Preschool Director Kathy VanderHeyden that the church would be closing its doors. VanderHeyden, a member of First Church, then reached out to her pastor about a building they had recently purchased and planned to demolish. That building was given new life as Angel Academy, and preschoolers started classes there the same year.

“We want kids to know the love of Jesus,” VanderHeyden said. “We are not just a church program. We have kids from the community, and I think that’s the beauty of our program.”

Today, Angel Academy serves 19 families with preschool aged children. The children learn about letters and numbers, but they also hear Bible stories such as Creation and David and Goliath.

VanderHeyden “I think the thing that sets us apart is that its the love of learning interwoven with the love of Jesus Christ. We serve Jesus, and that flows through how we treat our students and how we teach our students to treat others.”

Angel Academy is a ministry of First Church (PCA), which is located at 3134 Ridge Road in Lansing. For more information about the preschool, call 708-895-6671, or visit angelacademypreschool.org.

Moving Tiny Town: special use permit granted for business expansion

BY MELANIE JONGSMA

LANSING, Ill. (June 14, 2019) – Following an extensive question-and-answer session during the May 21 Committee of the Whole meeting, approval was granted at the June 4 Village Board meeting for Tiny Town Nursery School to move to 18144 Glen Terrace, which is zoned as an R-2 residential district.

Tiny Town is currently located at 2462 Ridge Road. Owner Cindy Tortolano would like to move across the alley to three classrooms in the building formerly occupied by Trinity Lutheran School. Having an additional classroom will allow the 36-year-old business to expand. “We can eventually add two-year-olds back into our program,” Tortolano told the Board at the Committee of the Whole meeting. “We let that go probably 10 years ago to take on a preschool-for-all



Tiny Town has been located at 2462 Ridge Road for many years. Owner Cindy Tortolano would like to expand the services she can offer, but she needs more space. (Photo: Melanie Jongsma)



Tiny Town will move across the alley to three classrooms in the building formerly occupied by Trinity Lutheran School. (Photo: Melanie Jongsma)

program, so now we’ll be able to add the two-year-olds back.” In addition to preschool-for-all, Tiny Town currently offers before- and after-school care as well as full days of care. As part of their programming, they serve breakfast, lunch, and two snacks to the children.

The Tortolanos plan to sell the existing Tiny Town building as a home.

With the special use permit granted, the Tortolanos are proceeding with other paperwork required by Lansing as well as the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services. They hope to complete the move over an extended weekend in mid-July, losing only one day of business and causing minimal disruption to the families they serve.

OBITUARIES



WALTERLEE E. GENTRY

JULY 15, 1929 – JUNE 25, 2019

Walterlee E. Gentry, 99, formerly of Lansing and Normal, passed away on Friday, June 14, 2019 at The Villas of Holybrook in Bloomington, IL.

A small family memorial service will be held Saturday, August 3, at Cedar Park Cemetery, Calumet Park, IL. Carmody-Flynn Funeral Home, Bloomington is assisting the family with cremation arrangements.

Walterlee was born January 2, 1920, in Pittsburg, KS, the daughter of Leroy and Jennie Puterbaugh Gilliland. She married Joe Allen Gentry in June of 1941. He died on May 12, 1960.

Survivors include two sons: David (Deborah) Gentry of Normal, and Jay Gentry of Bloomington; grandchildren: Sarah Gentry Aubry (Wilmore, KY), Joseph (Sarah) Gentry (Phoenix, AZ), Emily Gentry (Indianapolis, IN), Jill (Jeremy) Renkin (El Paso, IL), Bryan (Robin) Mutka (Schererville, IN), and Katie (Nick) Thomason (Charleston, IL); and six great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by four sisters and two brothers.

Walterlee worked many years at the Whiting Clinic in Whiting, IN, and Patwari Radiology in Munster, IN. She enjoyed working and being productive, and she didn't retire until age 83.

Walterlee loved her children and grandchildren, and especially her great-grandchildren. She attended Calvary United Methodist Church in Normal and was a long-time member of Eastside Baptist Church in Chicago.

To express condolences online, please visit www.carmodyflynn.com. Memorials may be directed to Calvary United Methodist (Normal) Music Department.

LOLLOCK

A funeral mass for Wilma M. Lollock (nee Kovacevich) was held Friday, June 28, 2019 at St. John the Evangelist Day Chapel in St. John, IN.

Mrs. Lollock was born May 3, 1928 and passed away June 23, 2019. Wife of the late

Edward Lollock and the late Thomas Roach. Mother of Thomas (Marge) Roach, James (Jeanette) Roach, Robert (Sandy) Roach, Mary (Keith) Panik, Suze (David) Jones, Debbie (Tom) Varga, JoAnne (John) Gianoli, Mark Lollock, Donna (Dave) Kobar, Gary Lollock, Gregory (Lori) Lollock and the late Steve Lollock. Grandmother of 18; great-grandmother of eight.

Private inurnment was at Assumption Cemetery, Glenwood, IL. Arrangements were entrusted to Smits Funeral Home, Dyer, IN.



FRANK J. NOVAK, JR.

JANUARY 19, 1925 – MAY 31, 2019

Frank J. Novak, Jr., age 94 of Lansing, Illinois, passed away Friday, May 31, 2019.

He is survived by his loving children, Wayne Novak, Karan (Tim) Nondorf, and Kenneth Yates. Loving grandfather of seven and great grandfather of five. Also surviving is his loving brother Norman (Barbara) Novak and many cherished nieces and nephews. Frank was preceded in death by his first wife, Dorothy (nee Novak) Novak; parents Frank and Frances Novak; second wife Lois (nee Craven) Novak; and brother Ed (late Josephine) Novak.

Friends visited with Frank's family on Sunday, June 9, 2019, at the Schroeder-Lauer Funeral Home, 3227 Ridge Road, Lansing, Illinois, and ceremonial proceedings of the Firefighters Honor Guard were observed, including the Final Bell Ceremony.

Funeral Services were held on Monday, June 10, 2019, at the funeral home, beginning with 9:30 AM closing prayers, then proceeding to St. Ann Catholic Church, 3010 Ridge Road for a 10:00 AM Mass of Christian Burial. Participation by members of Frank Novak's family added special meaning. Father Tim Nondorf (Novak's grandson) served as officiant, and grandsons Joe Nondorf and Jared Yates each did a reading. Other family members played other roles in the service.

Frank was laid to rest at Holy Cross Cemetery, Calumet City, Illinois. On the way to the cemetery, the funeral proces-

sion, led by Engine 30, passed the station where Novak served Lansing for 39 years, slowing under two aerial ladders that had been raised by Lansing and South Holland Fire Departments. Firefighters in full turnout gear gave a final salute as the hearse passed.

Frank was part of the greatest generation. He served in the Army during WWII as Island Defense of the Hawaiian Islands. Frank was discharged from the Army as a decorated Master Sergeant. After the war, Frank worked at the chemical laboratory of ARCO in the Harvey, IL, facility and as a volunteer fireman for the Village of Lansing.

When Frank retired from ARCO he found his passion as not just a fireman, but as one of the founding members of the EMT program for the Village of Lansing. Frank's dedication to the welfare of the citizens of Lansing helped save countless lives in the Village of Lansing since the mid-1970s.

Frank was a member of St. Ann's Church since the early 1950s and served as an usher until 2016.

Special thanks to the Cox/Hager family for all their love and assistance. Frank will be greatly missed by all who knew him.

In lieu of flowers memorial donations may be made in Frank's name to the Lansing Paramedics or Unity Hospice, 600 W. Cermak Road, Suite 3D, Chicago, Illinois 60616.

PAGACH

A Prayer Service for Dennis J. Pagach was held on June 27, 2019 at Thornridge Funeral Home.

Mr. Pagach was born July 31, 1982 and died June 21, 2019. He was the husband of Kelly Sue (nee Meinke); father of Talon and step-father of Michael Smith; son of George Pagach Jr. and Rosemary (David) Lynch; brother of Danielle Lynch; son-in-law of Maria Meinke; brother-in-law of Amanda Meinke; nephew of many aunts, uncles, and cousins.

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

SHIELDS

A private service was held for Timothy P. Shields.

He was the brother of Janice (Ron) Munder and Carry (late Sue) Shields. Uncle of David Shields and Stacey (James) Williams; great uncle of 1 great niece and 4 great nephews. "Rest in peace little brother."

WIERSMA

A funeral service for Annette Wiersma (nee Van Vossen) was held Friday, June 28, 2019 at Smits Funeral Home in Dyer, IN with Rev. Jeff Hale officiating.

Mrs. Wiersma was born August 15, 1925 and passed away June 23, 2019. Wife of the late Henry Wiersma. Mother of Juanita "Nita" (Fred) Venhuizen, Peggy (George) Fleming, Cindi (George) Sjaardema, Phillip (Jackie) Wiersma, Daniel (Jessica) Wiersma, and Lois Wiersma (Jay Wilson). Grandmother of 19; great-grandmother of 31. Sister of Jean (William) Strong.

Interment was at Chapel Hill Gardens South, Worth, IL. Arrangements were entrusted to Smits Funeral Home, Dyer, IN.

The Lansing Journal runs full obituaries with photos in our daily online news (thelansingjournal.com/news) as we receive information from funeral homes both local and out-of-state. For \$100, we can also include a version of the notice and photo in our upcoming monthly print edition. Interested families can contact The Lansing Journal directly, or ask your funeral home to do so.

LOCAL CHURCHES

(To be added, email ericaw@myshopper.biz)

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3500 Glenwood-Lansing Road, Lansing 708-474-9226

PASTOR CAL AARDSMA

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Church School—9:45am



3440 178th Street, Lansing 708-474-5400

WORSHIP SERVICES

Sunday School.....9:30am

Sunday Worship10:30am



3134 Ridge Road, Lansing

708-474-9610

www.firstchurchpca.org

BEN KAPPERS, PASTOR

WORSHIP SERVICES

Morning Worship 9:30am

Sunday School.....11:00am

Evening Worship..... 5:30pm

GRACE CHURCH



2740 Indiana Avenue, Lansing 708-474-0180

info@gracechurchlansing.org

www.gracechurchlansing.org

WORSHIP SERVICES

Sunday.....10:00am

Wednesday10:00am

LYNWOOD UNITED REFORMED CHURCH



1990 E. Glenwood-Dyer Road, Lynwood

708-474-4100

www.LynwoodURC.org

REV. NICK ALONS PASTOR

WORSHIP SERVICES

9:30am and 5:00pm

MT. ZION UFL CENTER



2340 177th Street, Lansing

708-858-8912

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12:00 pm, free vegetarian lunch follows



2244 Indiana Avenue, Lansing

708-474-9576 • www.oakglenurc.org

FB: Oak Glen United Reformed Church

WORSHIP SERVICES

Morning Worship 9:30am

Sunday School.....11:00am

Evening Worship..... 5:00pm

HELP WANTED

Restoration Ministries is seeking to hire two full-time (40 hour) Clothing Sorters at its busy South Holland Thrift Store.

This is a year-round position, and *not* a seasonal/Summer break position.

- The successful applicant must be energetic and hard-working.
- Fluency in English is required.
- Spanish language fluency is a plus.
- Experience in thrift stores or knowledge of clothing is a plus, but not required.

Restoration Ministries offers optional medical/dental coverage, and the opportunity to grow.

Restoration Ministries is a drug and alcohol-free workplace.

Apply in person M-F (9-4) at 351 W. 162nd Street, South Holland IL. No phone inquiries, please.

Royalty, from page 3

fix the world, but we try."

Princess Katherine shares that sentiment. Her husband, Prince Alexander, described her as having "child-itis," and others have described her as very hands-on and dedicated to Lifeline's cause.

AN EASTER MIRACLE

Princess Katherine shares the story of two young lives that were changed through the work of Lifeline. It happened about 18 years ago around Easter time, at an event where over 1,000 orphans were in attendance.

"The children were out egg hunting for Easter. They came back in and all of a sudden, we heard screaming between two children—a little boy who was 8, and a little girl who was 6. It was a brother and sister who were separated by mistake during the war. They found each other in the middle of the room," said the princess.

After the children were reunited, the minister of social services promised Princess Katherine that they would stay together, calling their reunion an act of God. Princess Katherine said that is something she will never forget.

HELP, RESPECT, AND SCHOLARSHIPS

Lifeline's efforts help not only Serbian children. Thanks to a donation of \$500,000 from the New York chapter, the organization was able to provide a digital mammography machine, which helped provide exams to over 100,000 Serbian women.

"We need to have more care for one another. You don't have to know the person's name, you don't have to know who they are—it doesn't matter. If they're in front of you, you make it your responsibility to do whatever you have to do to take care of them," Princess Katherine said.



During their visit to Lansing, Crown Princess Katherine and Crown Prince Alexander of Serbia were greeted at the Serbian Social Center by the Kolo Folklore group and Rev. Father Milos. (Photo: Katie Arvia)

"I think charity is important to help others in need," HRH Prince Alexander agreed. "Our country needs a lot of help—our hospitals, our orphanages, our refugees. ...I'm very proud of my wife and Lifeline Chicago and all the other Lifelines for what they do to help everybody. They help everybody, regardless of religion or ethnic origin. It's very important to respect everyone."

In addition to their work with Lifeline, Prince Alexander is also very dedicated to education. Every year, he hosts a reception for Serbian students who have the top grades in their high schools.

"It's very popular. The grades are very high," Prince Alexander said. "I award them gifts and recognition and certificates. It's quite spectacular." Prince Alexander is also involved with one of his alma maters, Culver Military Academy, and sponsors a scholarship for Culver students.

GIVING HOPE

The banquet, attended by nearly 200 guests, was a great success for both the Three Kolos and Lifeline Chicago. As Bajich said, "The work that we do is so much more far-reaching than the simple [act of] sending pajamas and gym shoes and clothing. We give hope."

People interested in donating time or money to the Three Kolos group efforts may contact Debbie Keen at debutante501@gmail.com.

To learn more about Lifeline, visit www.lifelinechicago.com.

Public hearing for village budget approval scheduled July 16

Budget available for public review beginning Friday, July 5, at Village Hall

BY JOSH BOOTSMA

LANSING, Ill. (June 19, 2019) – Lansing's Village Treasurer Arlette Frye gave a short presentation during the Village Board's Committee of the Whole meeting on Tuesday, June 18, to explain the process of passing a new budget for the Village of Lansing, which includes a public hearing immediately prior to the July 16 Village Board meeting.

Of importance within the budget is the appropriation, which, according to Frye, "will drive the appropriations ordinance [and] is the legal spending limit for the village." The appropriation also forms the basis upon which tax levy proceedings are held in December.

According to the Illinois Municipal Code, Lansing must hold a public hearing before voting to approve the budget and must make the proposed budget available to the public at least 10 days before the hearing.

The public hearing is scheduled to take place on

Tuesday, July 16, at the Municipal Court Complex immediately before the Village Board meeting begins. Draft budgets will be available starting Friday, July 5, at Village Hall (3141 Ridge Road) for the public to view.

The available budget will overview the next fiscal year's anticipated expenditures and revenues for the village.

Following the hearing on July 16, the Village Board of Trustees will vote on the appropriations ordinance.

Village Board meetings begin at 7:00pm at the Lansing Municipal Court Complex at 2710 170th Street.

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Members of the Patti Leach Youth Center proudly display pairs of shoes that YES (Youth Engaged in Service) Club collected during their June shoe drive. The shoes will be donated to an impoverished community designated by the Share Your Soles Foundation. (Photo: Jennifer Yos)

Youth Center’s YES Club hosts shoe drive as service project

BY JENNIFER YOS

LANSING, Ill. (June 30, 2019) - Parents familiar with the Patti Leach Youth Center at 18123 Burnham Avenue know the facility offers a variety of fun social activities, recreational equipment, and comfortable spaces that appeal to grades 6 to 12. But the Center also offers its members a way to give back to society through their YES (Youth Engaged in Service) Club.

YES Club member Alexis Williams explains the purpose of the club: “YES Club is where you volunteer to get rewards, and we have points, but we volunteer because, you know, we love to help the community!” Youth Center Director Aneisha Titsworth adds, “[YES Club] is geared around service learning projects.”

SOLES FOR SCHOOL

Titsworth was familiar with the Share Your Soles

Foundation, which organizes shoe drives and other events that provide shoes for impoverished children and adults in many areas of the world. She asked her YES Club members if they were interested in hosting a shoe drive. “I really wanted the kids to have a project that did not require a lot of supervision—that was minimal input of staff—so I asked them about the idea. I thought it would be great for us to do something for the summer, prepping into the school year, so [that] by the time our shoes get into rotation to wherever, whoever needs [them] will have a nice pair of shoes for school.

“So I asked the kids if they wanted to do it. They all seemed excited and jumped on the bandwagon. I told them we were going to do it during the month of June. I said nothing else, and I was very proud of both Serenity and Alexis the first day when they

came in with big black garbage bags full of shoes, on their own, without any reminders, or anything. So I was very proud of them.”

WORTH AND VALUE

The drive was officially over at the end of June, and the club had already gathered 25 pairs with a week left to go. Share Your Soles Foundation requires that donated shoes be new or gently worn and not more than 5 years old because shoes deteriorate quickly thereafter. YES Club members get shoe donations, help sort the shoes, match them up, and make sure the soles are clean. Titsworth wants kids to understand that things we might consider useless can be of value to others.

Share Your Soles has a warehouse at 11202 S. Cottage Grove in Chicago. Director Titsworth plans to organize a field trip there in July, and YES Club members will package the shoes they collected.

Odds & Ends

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call 708/596-6040 ext. 3190**

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History, from page 1

knew him as a postal carrier. Some in the crowd held sticks with a large cut-out of Schultz's face—a lighthearted way to celebrate "Paul Schultz Day," which had been designated at the previous week's Village Board meeting as June 24, 2019, when Schultz was also named as the honorary Village Historian (see story on page 2).

Paul Schultz's wife Carol gets in on the fun, posing with one of the face cutouts made for Paul Schultz Day. (Photo: Carrie Steinweg)



Dan Bovino (left) held a small speaker that was connected to the microphone Paul Schultz was speaking into, but it was still difficult for people on the far edges of the large crowd to hear everything. (Photo: Carrie Steinweg)

GONE, BUT NOT FORGOTTEN

History Walk participants were fascinated to hear about some of the buildings that no longer exist along Ridge Road—a blacksmith shop and later a Nash auto dealership that stood at the site where ALDI is now, and the Union Hotel site, now occupied by an auto service business. The Union Hotel is believed to have been a stop on the Underground Railroad.

There was also discussion of how common it was in Lansing's early days to move a home or business building from one location to another. For example, the building that is now Jack's Sports Pub once was located on Wentworth Avenue, where it had previously been a German schoolhouse.

Schultz also reminisced about two former grocery stores on Ridge Road—Wilder's and Hoekstra's.



TAVERNS WERE SOCIAL HUBS AND MORE

At one time taverns had a much bigger role in community life. Some of them also served as hotels, stores, restaurants, post offices, dance halls, and community meeting places. It was in Busack's Tavern where the vote to incorporate took place, which resulted in the communities of Bernice, Oak Glen, and Lansing coming together to form the Village of Lansing.

In Lansing's early days there were five taverns, Busack's Tavern and the Union Hotel in Lansing, Nueffer's Tavern in Oak Glen, and the Bloody Bucket and Bohemian Joe's in Bernice. Busack's was also the first jail in town and had a dance hall built onto the back of it.

The owner of Bohemian Joe's, who doled out pay to the area brickyard workers, was killed in a robbery—the first unsolved murder in Lansing, said Schultz. He was jumped while on Ridge Road, transporting the cash in his wagon.

Kilroy's was also discussed on the tour. It was run by Helen and Pete Kooi in the 1940s and 50s, and their daughter, Carol Jacobson, was on the June 24 History Walk. She told the crowd that back then the establishment was known as "Helen & Pete's." Barb Dust, curator of the Lansing Museum, mentioned that during the 1954 centennial a luncheon was held at Helen & Pete's for the queen candidates.

by Helen and Pete Kooi in the 1940s and 50s, and their daughter, Carol Jacobson, was on the June 24 History Walk. She told the crowd that back then the establishment was known as "Helen & Pete's." Barb Dust, curator of the Lansing Museum, mentioned that during the 1954 centennial a luncheon was held at Helen & Pete's for the queen candidates.

MOVIE MEMORIES

Also included on the tour was the Lans Theatre, built in 1949. The building is now occupied by Beggar's Pizza. Schultz and Krumm said they went together to see the very first movie ever shown there—"Three Little Girls in Blue."

"The kids would go every Saturday, and you'd see 15 or 20 minutes of a serial, and you'd have to go back like 15 weeks in a row to see the whole thing," explained Schultz. "They'd pass out a punch card, and if you had seen all the episodes, you got to see the last one for free." Krumm also recalled the first serial shown at the Lans Theatre—"Jack Armstrong: The All-American Boy." Schultz said he also worked as a paper boy and a perk was that they'd sometimes get free tickets to a movie.

Someone in the crowd asked about movie prices at the time. "It was 15 cents for kids under 12," said Krumm.

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TIF 101 What is a TIF district?

BY ERIN NAUTA

LANSING, Ill. (July 1, 2019) - As the Village of Lansing considers the possibility of designating a new TIF district in the area of 172nd and Torrence Avenue, tax payers may be wondering what exactly a TIF district is, and why the Village, or Lansing citizens, would want one.

REVITALIZING GROWTH, RETAINING BUSINESSES

The State of Illinois permits local governments to designate specific areas within their jurisdictions for economic development through Tax Increment Financing (TIF). To qualify, those areas must be declining sectors within the city that would otherwise have no hope of competing for new businesses. TIF districts are often used for such projects as reviving a declining city center, a mostly-empty business district, or a disused industrial area. TIFs can help retain existing businesses that may be contemplating a relocation outside the city.

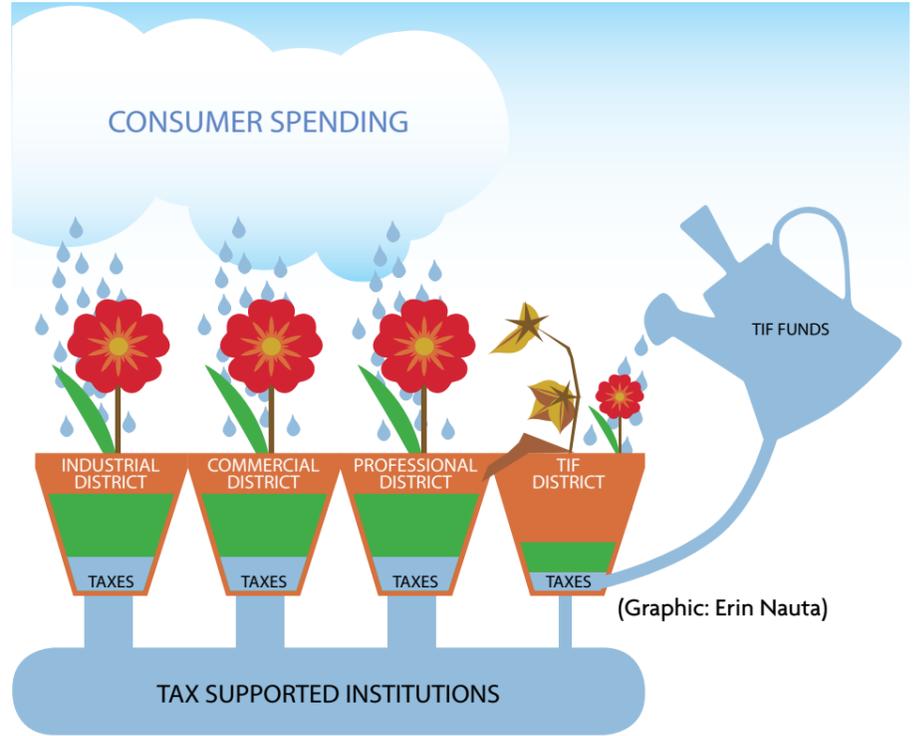
Improving blighted or under-performing sectors requires public investment to offset the cost of redevelopment, which often includes such improvements as new roads, sewers, and water mains, along with removal of decaying structures. The TIF concept requires local taxing bodies to invest some taxes today in expectation of seeing new or larger tax gains in the future. A Joint Review Board of all affected taxing bodies has input on the establishment of TIF districts, and a citizen appointee also sits on that Board.

STEP BY STEP

Here's how a TIF district works: the Village creates an account for the distressed properties, and deposits a portion of the taxes those properties are already paying into that account. The portion of taxes put into the account is the "tax increment."

All the money in the account must be used to improve the properties, whether it's repaving a parking lot, replacing a roof, or demolishing a structure. The goal is that these improvements will entice investors to step forward to put substantial additional monies into redevelopment of the property, bringing up the property value, adding to the local economy, and creating jobs.

Building up a lively economic environment with a strong tax base takes time; a typical TIF district has a life span of 23 years.



The TIF concept offers a way to borrow from future growth to make improvements now, without increasing taxes on the citizens for necessary infrastructure. And since only a portion of a TIF district's taxes are designated for improvements, the remaining taxes are still coming in to support local institutions such as libraries, schools, and parks that are tax-dependent.

LANSING'S TIFS

To date, the Village of Lansing has created TIF districts along Torrence Avenue (established 2014, expires 2037), Ridge Road (established 1988, expires 2023), Bernice Road (established 2009, expires 2032), and an industrial area on the western edge of town (established 1991, expires 2026). All are performing as expected.

If the Village of Lansing does create a new a new TIF district at 172nd and Torrence Avenue, the desired redevelopment would be a hotel site.

Civil Air Patrol unit hosts Girl Scout Aviation Badge Day

INFORMATION PROVIDED BY
CIVIL AIR PATROL

LANSING, Ill. (June 17, 2019) – On Saturday, June 8, members from Civil Air Patrol's Thunder Composite Squadron based in Lansing hosted an "Aviation Day" at Lansing Municipal Airport. Aviation Day was designed to help Girl Scouts from Chicago's Hegewisch neighborhood earn their Aviation Badge.

The Girl Scouts' visit to the airport started with an Introduction to the Civil Air Patrol Cadet program led by Thunder's commander, Major Barb Buckner.

Next, "Introduction to Aviation" and "How to Become a Pilot" classes were taught by Thunder's Captain George Roy, a certified ground and flight instructor and former corporate pilot who began his interest in aviation as a cadet in Civil Air Patrol.

After the class, the Girl Scouts were taken out to see one of Civil Air Patrol's Cessna planes. They participated in a pre-flight inspection of



Girl Scouts climbed aboard one of Civil Air Patrol's Cessna planes to participate in the pre-flight inspection. (Photo provided)

the plane before getting the chance to sit in the plane and pose for photos.

The day wrapped up with a class on Aviation Weather conducted by Thunder's Captain Mark

Carroll, a meteorologist, who let the scouts also listen to a live weather report from the airport. While the scouts continued to ask questions, Thunder's Major Rick Zalud showed them what a plane's emergency locator beacon (ELT) looks like and how Civil Air Patrol helps locate planes when the beacon is transmitting.

The Civil Air Patrol is an auxiliary branch of the United States Air Force that gives an opportunity to youths ages 12 to 20 and senior volunteer members to participate in real search and rescue missions; learn about STEM, aviation, and military careers; acquire leadership skills; and more.

Thunder Composite Squadron meets every Wednesday, 7:00–9:00pm, at Heritage Middle School in Lansing, Illinois. Youths from throughout the region are welcome to join. Thunder Squadron includes members from Lansing and surrounding communities in Illinois and Northwest Indiana.

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LOVE OUR COUNTRY

Trinity Lutheran Church brings Biblical Garden to Lansing community

BY MELANIE JONGSMA

LANSING, Ill. (June 28, 2019) – The seeds of the idea were planted over two years ago. The closing of Trinity Lutheran School gave members and leaders of Trinity Lutheran Church an opportunity to reflect on their calling and role in the community. “We had to sit down and decide what our mission, what our ethos as a church was going to be moving forward,” remembers Rev. John Holyer.

Through intentional surveys of the congregation and participation in a variety of meetings in the community, Trinity reached a realization that they wanted to be even more involved in the Lansing

community. They wanted to be a resource and a positive influence. They wanted to make a difference in this life as well as the next life, on earth as well as in heaven.

So in addition to the monthly Community Dinners they had already been offering, they began considering other opportunities to be a presence in Lansing. They met with Mayor Eidam and offered to house the Lansing Loan Closet. They met with fellow churches and helped organize the Good Friday Prayer Walk. They met with Cindy Tortolano and

The Biblical Garden extends around the perimeter of the church building and includes two Judas trees. The tree is named after the disciple who betrayed Jesus and then hanged himself out of guilt (Matthew 27:5). (Photo: Melanie Jongsma)



became the new location for Tiny Town. Each new idea was tested against the question, “Will this bless the community?”

EVEN THE LANDSCAPING

Trinity Lutheran Church also has a Beautification Committee, and they also took the church’s renewed vision to heart. They accepted the as-

ignment of re-doing the landscaping around the building, and they transformed it into an outreach of peace, education, and growth.

Diane Lund, of honeybee and pollinator garden fame, is a member of Trinity Lutheran Church and a member of the church’s Beautification Committee. When planning the new landscaping, she thought it might be fun to use plants that are specifically mentioned in the Bible. As she began researching the idea, she learned that the concept of a Biblical Garden already exists. Wikipedia has an entry that says, “Biblical gardens are cultivated collections of plants that are named in the Bible. They are a type of theme garden that botanical gardens, public parks, and private gardeners



Garden guides are available in a weather-resistant box near the center of the Biblical Garden. They are laminated so they can be re-used when visitors return them to the box. (Photo: Melanie Jongsma)

maintain. They are grown in many parts of the world with examples in diverse places, including Japan’s Seinan Gakuin University Biblical Botanical Garden and the Missouri Botanical Garden in the United States.”

Lund realized that Trinity’s property could be a perfect location for a Biblical Garden in Lansing, Illinois.

UPROOTING AND REPLANTING

The project began last year when volunteers uprooted the neglected bushes around the perimeter of the church building and planted varieties of lavender instead. Lavender, which is referenced in the Bible by its Greek name—spikenard, or nard—is the herb Mary used to anoint Jesus before his crucifixion (Mark 14:3). It is known for its medicinal and calming qualities, so Lund likes the idea of having it planted

continued next page



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The cross, the planter, and the plantings were much more noticeable from the street after two overgrown trees were removed from the lawn, so the need for rebuilding and replanting became obvious. (Photo: Melanie Jongsma)

under the windows of the church's meeting room. The windows are often open during meetings, so the lavender-scented breezes could have a beneficial effect on potentially tense discussions.

REBUILDING AND REPLANTING

As Phase 2 of the landscaping renewal, volunteers focused on the planter under the cross that faces Indiana Avenue. The need became obvious after two overgrown trees were removed from the lawn, making

the church building much more visible from the street. Not only did the previously hidden plantings lack focus and care—"It was a hodgepodge," says Lund—but the planter itself needed attention. The mortar had disintegrated, and the brickwork and capstones were loose. So last fall the team rebuilt the planter, retaining the original capstones and using a mortarless wall design.

The new planter withstood Lansing's brutal 2019 winter, so it was confirmed ready for Biblical plantings this spring. Lund had already compiled a list of the plants she wanted, and she worked with Alsip Nursery to find even the ones that were nearing the end of their typical installation season. "I was pretty specific in what I wanted," she says, "and Alsip does a fabulous job. They did great."

WANDERING THE GARDEN

In order to bring the garden to life for people, Lund created an instructional guide, which Church Secretary Megan Roe formatted, printed, and laminated. The guide uses a lettered grid to indicate the location of each Biblical plant, and it provides the plant's common name, the botanical name, a sample Bible reference, and the verse in either the King James Version, the Modern King James Version, or the International Standard Version. The name of the plant appears in red in the printout of the Bible verse.

Currently there are 32 varieties of Biblical

perennials in the planter and around the church grounds. The Biblical references for plants like hyssop, lilies of the field, and burning bushes might be commonly recognized, but visitors to the garden have been surprised to learn that daffodils, irises, and crocuses are also mentioned in the Bible, though sometimes by other names. Both Lund and Rev. Holyer are hoping that people will feel free to wander onto the grounds, grab a garden guide, and conduct their own tour of the landscaping. However, if people would prefer a guided tour, that can be arranged as well. In fact, Lund is bringing Lansing's Garden Club to the Biblical Garden on July 18 for a formal tour. She hopes once those 28 people learn about it they will encourage others to come experience the garden. "It's meant for the community," she says.

"It helps you visualize what you read in the Bible," says Holyer. "It helps enliven God's Word." He is looking forward to seeing the new growth and the variety of blooms as the different species flower throughout the seasons.

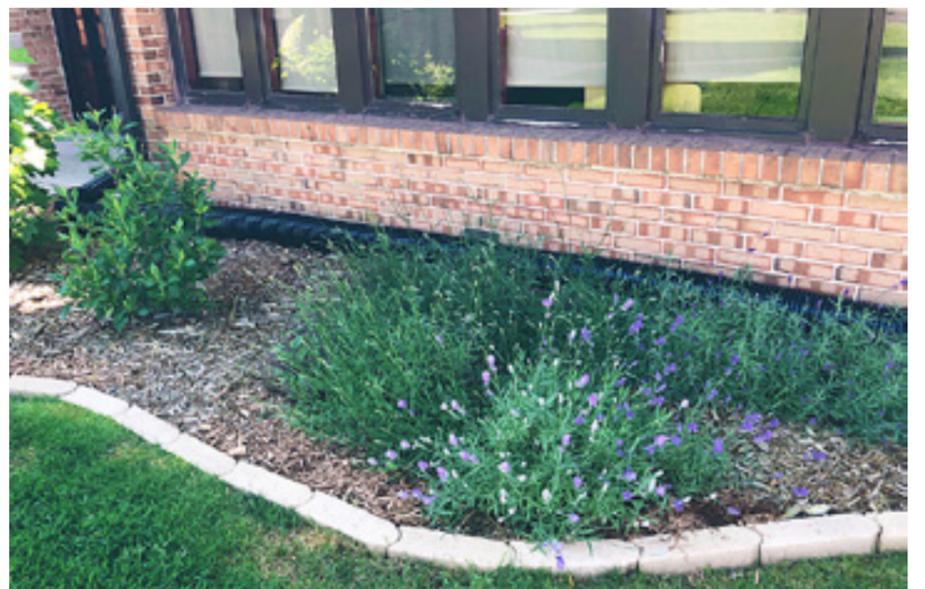
BEARING FRUIT

"It was a lot of work planning it," says Lund, so she is delighted that several people have already stopped by the garden to visit and learn about the plants. "It's already doing what it's supposed to do! And that makes me really happy."

Trinity Lutheran Church is located at 2505 Indiana Avenue in Lansing, Illinois. The next closest Biblical Garden is in Warsaw, Indiana.



Above: Mallow, Lupin, Artemisia absinthium, Lenten Rose, and Coreopsis are all on display in the central planter of Trinity's Biblical Garden, along with Thistle, Rue, Blue flax, Larkspur, and more. Below: Varieties of lavender under the meeting room windows may have a healing, calming effect. (Photos: Melanie Jongsma)



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The Lansing Journal *journeys*

Ecuador volcanos

SUBMITTED BY DAN ROELS



The Roels family—Dan, Beth, Rachel (oldest), and Cora (youngest)—traveled to Ecuador in June, along with The Lansing Journal. On June 7 they climbed Pichincha, a dormant volcano that overlooks Quito. On June 15 (pictured above), they visited Cotopaxi, an active volcano, climbing to the refuge at almost 16,000 feet, where they took a break to catch their breath and catch up on the news back home. (Photo: unnamed fellow tourist)

Jamaica

SUBMITTED BY MICAELA SMITH



Under the hashtag "#getyourgrooveback," Lansing resident Micaela Smith set aside her responsibilities as Human Relations Commissioner, Park Board Commissioner, and State Rep Marcus Evans' assistant and took a "much needed" birthday vacation in Jamaica. Adding to the relaxing atmosphere of the Grand Palladium Jamaica Resort & Spa was, of course, The Lansing Journal. (Photo: Linda Bryant, colleague)

Japan

SUBMITTED BY ADAM BARKER



The Living Word Church youth group (called "Soma") was on a mission trip in Tokyo, Japan, in June. The Lansing residents from the group brought a copy of The Lansing Journal. From left: DJ Kooi, Malcolm Smith (front), Andy Smith, Isabel Monterroso, Alli Barker, Nate Kooi, and Adam Barker. Living Word Church is located at 2248 186th Street in Lansing. Sunday services are at 10:00am. (Photo: Hannah Kosinski)

Liopalooza

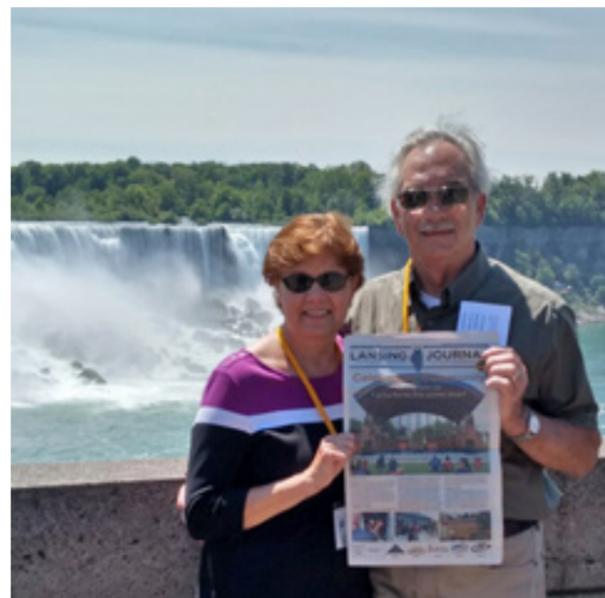
SUBMITTED BY LIONEL VALENCIA AND FRIENDS



Lionel (Leo) Valencia (wearing hat) celebrated his 50th birthday on June 22 with a fiesta involving taquiza, tequila, mariachi, and more. The party was affectionately called "Liopalooza," and before the birthday cake was served, Leo and his family posed for birthday photos that included The Lansing Journal. (Photo: Melanie Jongsma)

Niagara Falls (Canada side)

SUBMITTED BY DAN CENTRACCHIO



Dan and Maryann Centracchio took The Lansing Journal along on a trip to the Canadian side of Niagara Falls. (Photo: Allanzo Gala)

Paul Revere's house

SUBMITTED BY JEFF WHITE



Jeff White (far right) led a group of about 25 history buffs on a tour of Boston. "This is the 'Iliana Alumni and Friends' history tour," says Jeff. "We spent 2 days in Martha's Vineyard; 2 days in Concord, MA; and 3 days in Boston. All of these people are local readers of The Lansing Journal (even the Postemas who live in Orland). We are in front of Paul Revere's home. Paul etched copper sketches for the newspaper; therefore, we saw it fitting to take a picture in front of his home." (Photo: Jodi Huizenga)

Lansing

Kids Zone DJ

SUMMER FEST

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Live Music by Little Giant

SATURDAY, JULY 27

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Wow, Lansing, you are on the move!

We received more than a dozen Lansing Journal Journeys submissions this month—from local, national, and international destinations! Several submissions included multiple photos, which we couldn't fit in print, but did incorporate into the online version of this feature.

To see all the photos in all the Lansing Journal Journeys, visit www.thelansingjournal.com/news and type "Journeys" into the search field.

Yellowstone National Park

SUBMITTED BY JANE ADDISON



Joe and Jane Addison were part of an eight-day tour that included two days in Yellowstone National Park. They stopped at Mammoth Hot Springs with a copy of The Lansing Journal. (Photo: Patti Jongsma)



Of course, the tour also stopped at Old Faithful, where Jane (right) and her friend Susan Kelly posed with The Lansing Journal. (Photo: Patti Jongsma)

Mackinac Island

SUBMITTED BY KRIS O'CONNOR



Kris O'Connor took a break from her salon—Classy Cuts (3365 Ridge Road)—to celebrate her 20th anniversary with her husband Brodie. They traveled to Mackinac Island, Michigan—and to make the occasion even more celebrative, they took along The Lansing Journal.

"It is hilarious—" wrote Kris, "everybody that sees my Lansing Journal thinks it's from Lansing Michigan. And then they ask a bunch of questions about it. They're like, 'Where did you get that? When did that come out?' And I tell them I'm from Lansing, Illinois, and they say hi from Lansing, Michigan."

The Netherlands

SUBMITTED BY BARB RACZAK



"I recently visited my daughter Melissa Raczak, who grew up in Lansing and now lives in the Netherlands with her Dutch husband Edwin Hulst and their two daughters, Victoria and Isabella. We were out shopping in Utrecht, where you can easily find a sea of bikes. I enjoyed sharing The Lansing Journal with them," wrote Barb Raczak, who is also the Publicity Chairman and Corresponding Secretary of the Lansing Women's Club. From left: Victoria (age 15), Isabella (age 16), Barb Raczak, Melissa. (Photo: Edwin Hulst)

Dominican Republic (on a honeymoon!)

SUBMITTED BY ARCHIE HOLLINS JR.



Newlyweds Archie and Larina Hollins enjoyed the second of their two honeymoon vacations in Sosúa, Dominican Republic—with their Lansing Journal. "Just trying to keep up with home," said Archie. (Photo: Sheri Smith)

Graceland (with Elvis!)

SUBMITTED BY ELVIS SLAUGHTER



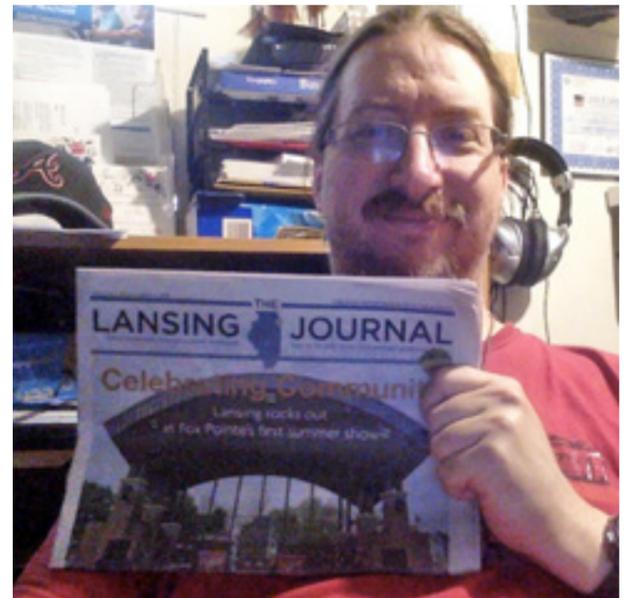
Elvis Slaughter has a special appreciation for LARC, partly because they have an annual fundraiser that includes an Elvis impersonator (though he impersonates the other Elvis). "I have attended the Elvis fundraiser the last two years with family members," said Slaughter, "and we really enjoyed the shows." To bring some fun attention to the upcoming event, Elvis and The Lansing Journal journeyed to Graceland.

People who want to join Elvis Slaughter in watching Elvis Presley can contact LARC for tickets: 708-474-1540. "The Essence of Elvis" will be at Kacey's Banquet Hall (17800 Lorenz Avenue, Lansing, Illinois) on Friday, August 2, from 6:00–10:00pm.

LARC is a private not-for-profit organization dedicated to providing developmentally disabled adults with an opportunity to work, live, and participate in their community.

At home in Lansing

SUBMITTED BY JOHN GEHRING



"Love reading The Lansing Journal," posted John Gehring on his Facebook page. That pretty much says it all, doesn't it?

Keep those Journals journeying!

We love to see a variety of people enjoying The Lansing Journal in a variety of locations. Residents, businesses, churches, schools, public officials—anyone is qualified to participate.

Send us your photos of The Lansing Journal in unique places near or far. Email them to info@thelansingjournal.com, and make sure you include these basic pieces of information:

1. The names of any people in the photo
2. The name of the person who took the photo
3. Information about the location or situation

Unity, from page 1

breaking into a traditional blues number infused with his own Fiji flavor.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

Around 8:15pm, noticing the number of families on the lawn, Katobalavu invited all the “kiddies” to come up and take the stage. A few dozen children streamed forward, some confident and excited, some unsure. The band began playing Solomon Linda’s “The Lion Sleeps Tonight,” a classic pop and folk song.

Katobalavu encouraged the kids to sing along, but the song was less familiar to them than to their parents in the audience. After restarting the band a few times to give the youngsters a chance to figure things out, he changed tactics. “Ok, are you ready to dance?” he asked the kids, and they gleefully responded with various moves, including the floss, a swing step, and somewhat rhythmic jumping up and down.

A CHANGE OF PLANS

After this number, around 8:40pm, Fox Pointe Director Tony Troncozo took the stage and let the crowd know that lightning had been sighted in the area. Fox Pointe concerts happen rain or shine, but lightning is one weather condition that can force a change of plans. Troncozo had been tracking a nearby storm, and he explained, “I’m gonna put the band on break until that storm passes through. Hopefully it will blow over soon.”

It was not yet raining at this point, and the night was still warm, so people remained in their lawn chairs, relaxing and socializing. Band members set their instruments down and stepped off the stage to chat. As the first gentle raindrops began to fall, some people packed up and went home; others moved to the pavilion.

Katobalavu asked band members Timothy Perkins, Anthony Robert Bessen, and Kelvin Ayres to grab some of their more portable instruments and head to the pavilion, bringing the music to the people. With upright bass, acoustic guitar, and drumsticks accompanying him, Katobalavu stood atop a pavilion picnic table and musically assured the crowd with an unplugged version of Bob Marley’s, “Every Little Thing’s Gonna be All Right.”

A CHANGE OF WEATHER

Before 9:00pm, the winds picked up, the temperatures dropped, and the rain turned into a deluge. “Not again!” one audience member cried, bemoaning the fact that the only consistency in this spring’s weather has been Wednesday-night rain showers, now reaching three weeks in a row. Through the gasps at the lightning and the shrieks each time the wind blew now-cold rain through the open walls, people were still smiling under the pavilion. The a cappella concert continued with an audience-participation version of Neil Diamond’s “Red, Red Wine” and Bob Marley’s “No Woman, No Cry.”

A WELCOME MESSAGE

Band members finally had to set down guitar and bass to run back to the stage and ensure that the tarps covering their equipment were secured. Katobalavu used that time to chat with the crowd around him, until he was inspired to take the makeshift stage again and speak from the heart. “Listen up, I wanna tell you something,” he shouted.



After weeks of rain, crowds were happy to be able to enjoy the concert from the lawn. (Photo: Melanie Jongsma)



Lead Unity singer Pita Katobalavu invited the “kiddies” to take the stage and lead the next song. (Photo: Melanie Jongsma)



Amid rain and lightning, Unity the Band members Pita Katobalavu (on table), Anthony Robert Bessen (guitar), Timothy Perkins (bass), and Kelvin Ayres (drumsticks) kept the concert going. (Photo: Melanie Jongsma)

Be.” “Oh, you play?” asked Katobalavu, encouraging the man to continue, and leading the crowd in another sing-along.

TAKING IT HOME

Weather reports would later show that up to four inches of rain fell in Chicago’s southern suburbs that night, causing flash flooding and power outages. Through it all, until well after 9:00pm, the Fox Pointe pavilion was filled with laughter and song. Before the rain-splashed crowds headed home, Lansing Mayor Patty Eidam, who had been enjoying the impromptu concert from a corner of the pavilion, approached the table-stage to thank Katobalavu and Unity the Band for their above-and-beyond performance.

Katobalavu reached for her hand and pulled her onto the table top with him. “Let’s give her a big hand!” he called to the cheering crowd. “One Love!”

The Fiji singer and the Lansing mayor laughed, and embraced, and then departed, each bringing echoes of music into the stormy night.

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Performances are:

- 2:00pm Wednesdays and Thursdays
- 7:30pm Fridays
- 3:00 and 7:30pm Saturdays
- 2:30pm Sundays

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. Student tickets are \$20, and gift certificates are also available.

Theatre at the Center is an accessible venue with plenty of free parking. (Photo: Guy Rhodes)

Theatre At The Center announces cast for *Over the Tavern*

Show opens July 11, runs through August 11

INFORMATION PROVIDED BY BIG SPLASH PR

MUNSTER, Ind. (June 7, 2019) – Director Ericka Mac has cast Janet Ulrich Brooks as Sister Clarissa, Logan Baffico as Rudy, Cory Goodrich as Ellen, Isabelle Roberts as Annie, Eric Slater as Chet, Julian Solis as Georgie, and Seth Steinberg as Eddie in *Over the Tavern*, the summer stage production at Theatre at the Center (TATC) in Munster. Previews begin July 11, with Opening Night on July 14, and a continued run through August 11.

ABOUT THE STORY

Tom Dudzick's semi-autobiographical play is set in 1959. Audiences meet Rudy Pazinski, a precocious 12-year old student who feels God put us on Earth to have fun. Rudy matches wits with ruler-wielding Sister Clarissa when he shares his plans to shop around for a more fun religion. We also meet the entire Pazinski family, who live in a tiny apartment above the neighborhood bar they run, as they face both the real and comical struggles of life, including Rudy's questioning the rules of the Roman Catholic Church just as he is about to receive the church sacrament of confirmation. An earlier run of *Over the Tavern* was a smash-hit with Theatre at the Center audiences in 2005.

ABOUT THE CAST

Janet Ulrich Brooks (Sister Clarissa) returns to TATC after receiving a Jeff-nomination for her performance as Ann Landers in the TATC production of *The Lady with All the Answers*. Janet is a Company Member of TimeLine Theatre, where her credits include portraying Maria Callas in *Master Class* and

also a production of *Bakersfield Mist*, as well as Jeff-nominated performances in *The Audience*, *33 Variations*, *A Walk In The Woods*, *All My Sons*, and other favorite works. Her most recent credits include *The Children* at Steppenwolf Theatre and *Pipeline* at Victory Gardens. Her film credits include roles in *Divergent*, *One Small Hitch*, and *Conviction*, as well as television credits with roles in *Chicago Med*, *Chicago Fire*, *Chicago Justice*, and *Boss*. Janet was the first recipient of the Ed See Outstanding Theatre Alumnus Award from the University of Central Missouri.

Logan Baffico (Rudy) is making his TATC debut. He was most recently seen as Hero Boy in the Rail Events' *The Polar Express*. His other credits include Benjamin in *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor*

Dreamcoat and Chip in *Beauty and the Beast* at BrightSide Theatre. He also appeared as Posh Boy in *Billy Elliot* at Porchlight Theatre, Sebastian in *The Little Mermaid*, and James in *James and the Giant Peach* at Stage Door Fine Arts Theatre.

Cory Goodrich (Ellen) returns to TATC for her 14th production, having previously appeared in *Steel Magnolias*, *Women on the Verge of a Nervous Breakdown*, and *Ring of Fire: The Music of Johnny Cash*. She is a five-time Jeff nominee including a Jeff Award for her role of June Carter in *Ring of Fire* and another for her role of Mother in Drury Lane's production of *Ragtime*. Cory has also performed in productions at the Marriott Theatre in Lincolnshire, Chicago Shakespeare, Candlelight and Drury Lane. As a singer/songwriter, Cory has four solo albums.

Eric Slater (Chet) is also making his TATC debut. He has worked in Chicago at The Goodman Theatre, Steppenwolf Theater Company, Writers Theatre, Court Theatre, and Chicago Children's Theatre. His off-Broadway credits include productions at the Public Theater, York Theatre, The Kitchen, and Theater for the New City. Film and television credits include *Chicago Fire* and *Widows*.

Seth Steinberg (Eddie) joins the cast as another TATC debut. He recently performed as Joey Oren in the Roundabout Theatre Company's production of *If I Forget*, and he appeared as Nathan Lukowski in the *The Full Monty* at Theater Wit in Chicago. As part of the Another Door Theatre Project, he appeared in *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*, *Pippin*, *Bare*, a *Pop Opera*, and *Heathers the Musical*, and has performed in several musicals with Repertory Company at the Actors Training Center in Wilmette.

Isabelle Roberts (Annie) is making her TATC debut. She has appeared in *Alice in Wonderland: Alice's Rock and Roll Adventure* at Chicago Children's Theatre; *The Sound of Music* at Lyric Opera of Chicago, *Bye Bye Birdie* at Drury Lane and *Sunday in the Park with George* at Chicago Shakespeare Theatre.

Julian Solis (George) returns to the TATC stage after making his TATC debut in *A Wonderful Life*. He also appeared as Rudy Pazinski for the TATC season preview last August. Solis was a featured soloist for the Northwest Indiana Symphony for two consecutive seasons.

ABOUT THE DIRECTOR

Ericka Mac is making her TATC directorial debut. She has served as Assistant Director of Company at Writers Theatre. She also served as Associate Director for the U.S. Premiere of *Ride the Cyclone* at MCC Theatre and Chicago Shakespeare; the World Premieres of both *Diary of a Wimpy Kid the Musical* and *Alice's Rock and Roll Adventure* at Children's Theatre Company; *The Little Mermaid* at Chicago Shakespeare and *Guys and Dolls* at Marriott Theatre.

ABOUT THE CREATIVE TEAM

The creative team for *Over the Tavern* includes Scenic Designer Angie Weber-Miller, Lighting Designer Shelley Strasser-Holland, Sound Designer Michael Patrick, Costume Designer Brenda Winstead, Wig Designer Kevin Barthel, and Properties Designer Emily Hartig. Stage manager is Jessica Banaszak. Artistic Director Linda Fortunato is teamed with TATC General Manager Richard Friedman and Ann Davis, TATC Head of Production.

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

nartoon by Jim Siergey



Jim Siergey's "Cultural Jet Lag" exhibit will end with a Grand Finale Closing Celebration at Paul Henry's Gallery & Studios on Sunday, July 14, 1:00-4:00pm. The event will include merchandise sales and an Artist's Talk. Paul Henry's is located at 416 Sibley Street in Hammond, Indiana.



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Lansing Lions prepare for first annual Summer Fest

Free event is Saturday, July 27, at Fox Pointe

BY MELANIE JONGSMA

LANSING, Ill. (July 1, 2019) – With food vendors, craft booths, kids games, musical entertainment, and adult beverages, the first-ever Lansing Lions Summer Fest will be similar to Autumn Fest, but it's condensed into one summer day instead of three autumn days. Saturday, July 27, from 3:30–10:30pm, Summer Fest is on the Fox Pointe schedule.

FOR THE COMMUNITY

"I want us to be involved in the community," said Lions Club President Eric Himmel about the motivation behind the event. The Lions Club has long been known as a financial supporter of such institutions as LARC and the Lansing Fire Department, and their international efforts include bringing eyeglasses to Mexico. But Himmel has been encouraging his fellow Lions to be more personally and visibly involved in Lansing. Summer Fest will be a good start.

Lion Jeff Keister is co-chairing the event with Lion Bert Rivera. As



The Lansing Lions Club met on June 28 to install new officers and discuss the upcoming year of service. Lion Bert Rivera (front row, left) and Lion Jeff Keister (front row, right) are co-chairs of Summer Fest, which they hope will become an annual event. (Photo provided)

owner of Jack's Sports Pub, Keister has worked with Little Giant, a local 1960s pop/rock band, booking them for monthly performances at Jack's on Saturday nights. He thought they would be perfect for the family-friendly fun the Lions want Summer Fest to be. Little Giant will begin their Summer Fest concert at 7:00pm on the Fox Pointe stage.

"Free fun and neighborly

camaraderie" are the buzz words Himmel uses to describe Summer Fest. He envisions kids running around the expansive Fox Pointe lawn while their parents shop the booths and enjoy food from Boz Hot Dogs and Lynnies Ques BBQ.

FOR THE LIONS

By being visibly involved in Lansing, the Lions are hoping the community

will get a better sense of the various ways the club lives out its motto, "We Serve." "Not enough people know what we do," Himmel admitted, citing a few examples: "We sponsor TF South bowling, we sponsor a Little League team, we sponsor a Boy Scout troop." He wants the club to continue those financial investments in the Lansing community while also rolling up their sleeves and getting personally involved.

FOR THE FUTURE

If things go well at Summer Fest 2019, the Lansing Lions Club plans to make this an annual event, always on the last weekend of July. They have designed Summer Fest

as a much less labor-intensive undertaking than, say, a Steak Fry, which will give them more freedom to meet people, enjoy the event, and build relationships.

Summer Fest will take place rain or shine on Saturday, July 27. "But pray for no rain," says Keister.

Fox Pointe is located at 18138 Henry Street in Lansing, Illinois.

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Local musician Andrew Denlinger brings 'Americana' to Lansing

Country, alternative, rock, blues, and more

BY JAMILYN HISKES

LANSING, Ill. (June 29, 2019) – Andrew Denlinger already looked at home sitting at a table in Troost Coffee and Tea (18155 Roy St.), even though he's only lived in Lansing since last fall.

The self-proclaimed rocker moved here from Midlothian with his wife and two daughters. He said they were looking for "somewhere that still felt like home," and they found that in Lansing.

"We checked out the Cruise Night on June 8, and there seems to be a lot of cool people and a lot of fun stuff going on," Denlinger said.

SO MANY STYLES

When he's not at home enjoying his new neighborhood, Denlinger is either leading a modern worship service at Trinity Lutheran Church in Tinley Park or working and touring with local country band Nick Lynch. Even though his solo music leans more toward the rock and roll end of the music spectrum, Denlinger says he has a taste for lots of music types.

"I'm all across the map when it comes to styles that I like and play," he said. "I was classically trained on violin and piano when I was four years old. I will say my heart doesn't go to classical music in the way it goes to rock and roll, but there's still some pieces I enjoy."

A third type of music eventually caught Denlinger's attention about five years ago: country. He'd recently left the food service industry to devote more time to his work at Trinity Lutheran, and one day he got a text from a friend asking if he wanted to play bass in a country band.

"Nick's manager at that point was out searching for another bassist to up the style of the band, make it fresher," Denlinger said. "I had played bass, but it had been quite a few years since I'd played regularly in a project. ...Nick and I had our first conversation that day. Right off the bat I could tell we both had the same passion."

REALIZING A LOVE FOR COUNTRY

Even though he'd gone through a phase of "snobbishly" disliking country music, Denlinger said playing in Lynch's band has been a great experience. Playing in honky-tonks and other country music venues is now something he's accustomed to.

"The thing I love about country music now is it's still a genre where

people will come out to see a live show," Denlinger said. "I'd been playing original music in Chicago forever, and it's demoralizing sometimes, begging your friends to come to shows."

Denlinger said he enjoys the touring life he experiences, and he enjoys touring with Lynch specifically. "Nick and I really connect," he said. "We see life very similarly. Over the time we've been in the band together, we've both had two kids, so we're both trying to figure out how to make it work."

ALBUMS

Denlinger released a solo rock record in 2016 titled *Sixspeed*. He actually recorded it 10 years ago following a stint as a screamer in a hardcore band. It became available electronically only this year.

"I'm really bad at business," Denlinger said with a laugh. "I'm planning on recording another full-length record in the fall. ...As a time capsule, I still think *Sixspeed* holds up."

As for what we can expect from his next album, Denlinger said it'll be a mix of styles that he's come to call "Americana"—blending elements from country, alternative, rock, and blues, among other genres. He's working with a recording engineer he's known for 20 years, and the concept for the record—as yet unnamed—is becoming more and more concrete, despite shirking traditional notions of genre.

"I'd say the stuff I've been writing for the last 10 years is a departure from the sound of the last record," Denlinger said. "I don't know if anybody really knows what 'Americana' is, but I've now grabbed onto it because I like it. People want to know what style this album is going to be: it's American rock. What is our country but just a mix of a ton of other stuff?"

THE FOX POINTE QUESTION

There's one more thing Lansing residents might want to know about Denlinger: will he be playing Fox Pointe with Nick Lynch anytime soon?

"One of the first things I did when I moved here was hit up Tony [Troncozo, Director of Fox Pointe,] and ask about it," Denlinger said. "We actually played Autumn Fest a few years ago when that space was just a lot. ...The band's booked up through September, but we're thinking about it."

For more information about Denlinger and to listen to his solo music, visit www.andrewscottchicago.com.

Andrew Denlinger and his family moved to Lansing last fall. Clockwise from top left: Andrew, wife Rayann, older daughter Evelyn, and younger daughter Olivia. They were looking for a place that felt like home. (Photo: Mary Compton)



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Written by
Tom Dudzick



Actors Janet Ulrich Brooks and Logan Baffico. Photo by Guy Rhodes.

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They have been Lansing residents for more than 46 years. They have three children and five grandchildren.

"Happiness is being married to your best friend."

Annual LARC on the Links golf outing to benefit more than 100 special needs residents

Sponsorship deadline is July 31 for August 9 event

INFORMATION PROVIDED BY LARC

CROWN POINT, Ind. (June 28, 2019) - "Youche Country Club is a spectacular course, and the food is excellent," said LARC Executive Director Ernie Gonzalez. "We're very fortunate to be able to host our event here."

The event, "LARC on the Links," features 18 holes of golf, lunch, games, contests, and complimentary select refreshments on the course. The event is scheduled for Friday, August 9, at Youche Country Club in Crown Point, Indiana. Registration begins at 11:00am, and a shotgun start is at 12:30pm. An awards and recognition banquet following the scramble is also included.

PARTICIPATING IN COMMUNITY

Golf/Dinner packages are \$150 per person. Dinner-only tickets are \$50 per person. Proceeds from throughout the day will benefit more than 100 individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. LARC programs provide job training and employment, daily life skills enrichment, senior programming, 24-hour residential services, and special recreation. The 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization's mission is to provide opportunities for people who have intellectual and developmental disabilities to work, live, and participate in their community.

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Sponsorship opportunities are also available, ranging in price from \$150 to \$3,500. Smaller sponsorship packages include hole signage, and larger packages include complimentary four-somes and additional dinner guests. In-kind donations—such as gift cards and gift certificates from area restaurants and businesses—will help to provide additional raffle revenue at the event.

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Gonzalez added, "Friends of LARC are encouraged to join us or become a sponsor, and help us make a difference in the lives of the amazing individuals we serve."

For more information, or to register, or to become a sponsor, contact the LARC Development Office at 708-474-1540, or visit www.larclansing.com. Sponsorships, golf registrations, and dinner registrations must be received by July 31.

ABOUT LARC

Originally formed in 1956 as a school for children (The Lansing School of Special Education), LARC has grown to provide community day services, work activities, and senior programming to approximately 100 adults with developmental disabilities from across the Chicagoland area. For more information about LARC, call 708-474-1540 or visit www.larclansing.com.



Eddie (left) and George pose for a photo on the green at Youche Country Club during last year's LARC on the Links. They enjoy the camaraderie of the event as much as the game. (Photo provided)

GET TO THE POINTE!

FOX POINTE JULY EVENTS

WEDNESDAY, JULY 10
Crawpuppies, 7:00pm

SATURDAY, JULY 13 (CRUISE NIGHT!)
Food Truck Fest, 3:00pm
The Original Hazzard County Band, 8:30pm

WEDNESDAY, JULY 17
Mike and Joe, 7:00pm

SATURDAY-SUNDAY, JULY 20-21
"Blues, Brews & BBQs" Blues Fest
2:00pm Saturday; 1:00pm Sunday

WEDNESDAY, JULY 24
Dick Diamond & the Dusters, 7:00pm

SATURDAY, JULY 27
Lansing Lions Summer Fest, 3:30pm

WEDNESDAY, JULY 31
Cadillac Groove, 7:00pm

GET TO THE POINTE!
Fox Pointe: 18138 Henry Street, Lansing, Illinois



Geocaching event continues through August 3

Guidebooks available from Lansing Public Library

BY JAMILYN HISKES

LANSING, Ill. (June 14, 2019) – For those who have always wanted to participate in a treasure hunt but have never gotten the chance, the 7th Annual ATLAS Multi-Library Geocaching Event could be the perfect way to fulfill that desire.

The Lansing Public Library will be participating in the event—which kicked off June 3 and ends August 3—again this year, providing Lansing residents with an opportunity for adventure and community building as they explore surrounding communities and libraries.

The event requires participants to obtain a guidebook, which contains coordinates and “clues” for how to locate each geocache, from one of the 32 participating area libraries. For each geocache discovered, according to the Lansing library’s website, participants will earn an entry into a \$25 gift card raffle.

Information Services librarian Dan Cuthbert has been with the Lansing library for just over a year, and he’s in charge of coordinating this library’s participation in the event. He said he used to hunt for geocaches in Lansing in his spare time, just for the fun of it.

“It’s the treasure hunt aspect of it [that I like],” Cuthbert said. “And

you’re not going out and trying to find a million dollars. A lot of the time, you’re going out to find...a little pencil and a pad of paper to write your name down. There’s kind of a secret-ness to it.”

According to Geocaching.com, geocaching began in 2000 when a man testing the accuracy of new GPS systems hid a black bucket with a logbook in Beaver Creek, Oregon. He then posted the latitude and longitude coordinates of the bucket on a forum, curious to see if other “GPS enthusiasts” would be able to find the item with the coordinates alone. They did, and a worldwide phenomenon took off from there. Now, participants don’t need a specialized GPS unit—they can use an app to locate geocaches, which are often small, camouflaged containers. In and near Lansing, Geocaching.com lists hundreds of geocaches waiting to be found.

Cuthbert said he believes events like the ATLAS Multi-Library Geocaching Event bring something important to a community like Lansing: “a sense of wonder.”

“You don’t realize there’s all these things going on in your community that you can take advantage of,” Cuthbert said.

“We want to be a community of people, and this is one of those ways to feel that. ...Even if it’s just by yourself, when you go to these various



Dan Cuthbert enjoys the “treasure hunt aspect” of geocaching. He’s coordinating the library’s involvement this year. (Photo: Dan Cuthbert)

The guidebook for the geocaching competition is available at the Lansing Public Library.



geocaches, you see other people who have left their names there, and you know you’re part of a long line of people, of a tradition.”

The geocaching event is also beneficial to the participating libraries, in Cuthbert’s opinion.

“People are able to travel around [to area libraries] and not only collect clues and...enter to get prizes, but they can also see the various things these libraries have to offer,” Cuthbert said. “Not just their own, but...within a 10- or 20-minute drive, all these various things are available to them.”

For more information about the ATLAS geocaching event, visit www.atlasgeocache.weebly.com or Atlas Geocaching’s Facebook page.

To pick up a geocaching guidebook, visit the Lansing Public Library at 2750 Indiana Avenue in Lansing, Illinois.

Oakley Park becomes Lansing’s first ‘smart playground’

Biba app offers ways for families to combine new and old technologies

BY NATALIE TOGTMAN

LANSING, Ill. (June 8, 2019) – The Lan Oak Park District has added a new “destination” park to their portfolio of parks with special features. Oakley Park, located on Oakley Avenue and 186th Street, now features an app called Biba Playground that allows children aged 3–9 and their parents to use technology to explore the park.

The game encourages kids to interact with the

playground equipment, such as the slide, swings, and stairs. Users can pick different characters to “locate” by following directions, such as “go to the swings.” Once the child has arrived at the swings, he clicks a button that says “I have arrived,” and he receives a character. The character requires some attention, such as being painted, or being given a bath.

Transforming Oakley Park into a smart

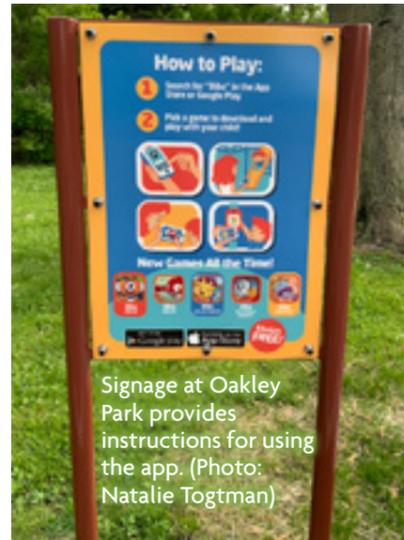
playground required the installation of “reality markers” in the park. The Biba description explains that the Biba system “needs low maintenance, and doesn’t require any electricity, lighting, or other special modifications. Once the ruggedized, augmented reality markers are mounted, the system is good for the life of your playground.”

The app is free and can be downloaded from iTunes or Google Play.

Oakley Park is “a little bit hard to find,” says Sharon Desjardins, Senior Superintendent of Strategy & Operations with Lan Oak Park District. “Take Torrence to 185th, turn left, take 185th to Oakley, turn left—playground is at the end of the street.”

Other “Destination Parks” in Lansing include:

- Bock Park—Dog park
- Copper Muggers Park (formerly Lions Park)—Pickleball
- Potts Park—Bocce Ball
- Rotary Park—Tennis
- Van Laten Park—StoryWalk
- Winterhoff Park—Outdoor music



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