

# THE LANSING JOURNAL

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## International dance tour includes Lansing

### Ballet Folklórico brings *México en el Corazón* to America, Canada, and back to Mexico

BY MELANIE JONGSMA

LANSING, Ill. (August 31, 2019) - Every seat was taken in TF South's 850-seat auditorium, and people lined the outer aisles as well, bringing total attendance near 1,000 for this year's performance of *México en el Corazón*. The three-hour event is performed by Ballet Folklórico—a troupe of 50 dancers, singers, and instrumentalists, all from Jalisco state in Mexico.

The tour is an initiative from NAIMA—the North American Institute for Mexican Advancement, a non-profit that works to enhance relationships between Hispanics and the broader community. Showcasing the cultural traditions, music, and folk dances of Mexico in a free, public program is one of the ways NAIMA helps to build understanding, respect, and pride.

The tour first came to Lansing in 2017, when Lansing was one of 7 cities chosen to host the program, and the



Top: "Guadalajara" was a powerful grand finale to the event. Above left: This is the second year TF South has hosted the troupe. Right: Lansing resident Martha Vargas (right) works for FEDEJAL and has been instrumental in bringing the show to Lansing. Her husband Miguel provides tech support for the show. Daughter Emily dressed for the occasion. (Photos: Melanie Jongsma)

event was held at Memorial Junior High School. This year the tour will visit 18 cities, including Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada; and, for the first time, ending in Guadalajara, the capital of Jalisco, Mexico.

Lansing resident Marthe Vargas is Sub-Secretary with FEDEJAL (FEDERation JALisco), a nonprofit that helps Mexicans integrate into the United States, particularly the Midwest. "This free show is made possible with the help of various organizations, clubs, governments, sponsors, volunteers, and local businesses and community members," said Vargas. "We want to give special thanks to TF South and Principal Jacob Gourley, as well as TF South's Latin Dance Club for all their help, and to La Rosita Market and La Michoacana Compi of Lansing for their generous donations."

### Lansing Public Library makes voter registration easy on National Voter Registration Day, September 24

INFORMATION PROVIDED BY THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

LANSING, Ill. (September 4, 2019) – The Lansing Public Library—with the assistance of volunteers from The League of Women Voters—plans to celebrate National Voter Registration Day on September 24 in the most appropriate way possible: by registering voters.

National Voter Registration Day is a 50-state effort to register voters before Election Day this November. The Lansing Public Library is a National Voter Registration Day partner and will register voters onsite at the library. Other National Voter Registration Day events and locations across the country are posted on [www.NationalVoterRegistrationDay.org](http://www.NationalVoterRegistrationDay.org).

"With Presidential Primary elections happening in March, every eligible American voter should exercise his or her right to be heard at the ballot box," say materials provided by National Voter Registration Day. "September 24's National Voter Registration Day is the right place to start by getting registered."

Founded in 2012, National Voter Registration Day is designed to create an annual moment when the nation focuses on registering Americans to exercise their right to vote. More than two million Americans have registered to vote on this day since the inaugural National Voter Registration Day.

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

#### CELEBRATION COLLABORATION

A production the size of "México en el Corazón" involves multiple organizations working together, and representatives from many of them were introduced at the beginning of the show. TF South Principal Jake Gourley began by welcoming the crowd in English and Spanish, to applause from the appreciative crowd. Lansing Mayor Patty Eidam brought a basket of gifts and thanked the group for "bringing cultural awareness to our village." Martha Vargas expressed thanks to the many sponsoring organizations. The President of FEDEJAL thanked the Village of Lansing and others

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# Lansing's CP Crawford celebrates 112 years

## Supercentenarian is oldest living male in America

BY CARRIE STEINWEG

LANSING, Ill. (August 25, 2019) – The average life span in the U.S. is 78.6 years, according to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC). Some Americans don't make it that long. Others pass up that number and continue to have several long, healthy years. However, it's still a rare thing to make it to triple digits. About 1 in 6,000 or 0.0173% live to be 100.

Today, August 25, in Lansing, a man has outlasted that average life span by 34 years: CP Crawford turned 112. He enjoyed an August 23 celebration at Tri-State Nursing Home, where he has resided for several years.

He is the oldest living resident of Lansing.

### SUPERCENTENARIAN

The website gerontology.wikia.org also shows him as the oldest living male not just in Illinois, but in the country, and the second oldest supercentenarian in the state. (A woman by the name of Louise SchAAF, born in Germany and currently residing in Illinois, was born October 16, 1906, it says.) A supercentenarian is someone who has reached the age of 110. According to that site, Crawford is the 17th oldest living person in the United States.

Crawford was born August 25, 1907, in Jackson, Mississippi, to John and Mattie Crawford. He never had the opportunity to attend school. His mother died when he was an infant, and he and his five siblings were separated and raised by aunts and uncles.

Around age 4, Crawford began working in the Mississippi cotton fields.

At 13 he became a dishwasher and later worked at a South Land Oil refinery and then for Illinois Central Railroad, which is what brought him to the Chicago area. He married three times during his life and raised six children. In 2015, Thornton Fractional South High School awarded him an honorary high school diploma.

### A SUPER CELEBRATION

Joining Crawford in celebrating were residents and staff from the nursing home, Dolton Trustee and

Supercentenarian CP Crawford celebrated his 112th birthday with a party at Tri-State Nursing Home. (Photo: Carrie Steinweg)

community activist Andrew Holmes, and several Village employees, including Lansing Village Clerk Vivian Payne, Lansing Police Chief Dennis Murrin, Lansing Fire Chief Chad Kooyenga, Lansing Building Commissioner Zoran Savic, Lansing Trustees Mike Fish, Brian Hardy, and Maureen Grady-Perovich, and Bill Benne from the Board of Directors of the Lansing Historical Society.

Tri-State's Activity Director, Sheila Huff, said she's hosted parties for a handful of over-100 residents in the eight years she has worked there. She and her activity aide, Jaquita Phillips, set up a table with cupcakes and decorated with a sign and balloons. Crawford and the crowd were entertained by a tap-dancer to the tunes "Happy" by Pharrell Williams and "Tequila." Crawford enjoyed a cupcake with a can of cherry Pepsi. "May God Bless You All," he said to those celebrating with him.

The Lansing Police Department gave Crawford a hat embroidered with "LPD" on it and a department patch. Huff presented him with a framed letter sent by State Representative Marcus Evans in recognition of



Crawford's birthday. Holmes also wished him well and gave him a hat from Club 100, an organization that Holmes is executive director of that celebrates those age 100 and older. Crawford is the oldest member. The oldest female in the club is a Chicago resident who is 108.

Camera crews from WGN-TV and ABC7 were at the party to get footage for a later broadcast.

If you're wondering what CP Crawford's secret is to living such a long life, he has a simple four-word answer: "Mind your own business."



Activity Director Sheila Huff presents CP Crawford with a framed letter from State Representative Marcus Evans. (Photo: Carrie Steinweg)

THE

# LANSING JOURNAL

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The Lansing Journal, P.O. Box 742, Lansing, IL 60438  
(708) 831-2250 • info@thelansingjournal.com • www.thelansingjournal.com

**PUBLISHED BY**  
The Shopper Group LLC, 924 E. 162nd Street, South Holland, IL 60473  
(708) 333-5901 • general@myshopper.biz • www.myshopper.biz

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# Crowds enjoy Breakfast with Primo Rafa at La Soga

Popular radio host gives backpacks to Lansing school kids, while La Soga gives breakfast to 150 visitors

BY MELANIE JONGSMA

LANSING, Ill. (August 22, 2019) – “The restaurant life is exciting,” reflects Emiliano Muñoz, as though he were a seasoned proprietor rather than a sophomore at TF South. Emiliano’s family owns and runs La Soga, the Mexican restaurant at 19267 Burnham Avenue in Lansing, so he has a lot of experience in the kitchen and at tables. But today was special.

La Soga was chosen by Radio La Que Buena (FM105.1) to host a promotion with their popular radio host “El Primo Rafa” (“Cousin Rafa”). Rafa was onsite Thursday morning—recording announcements, posting live video on his Facebook page, and posing for photos with customers.

Radio La Que Buena has been giving away backpacks at events like this all summer long, about two events each week, mostly in the city of Chicago. Lansing resident Marisol Gaeta is the Activation Supervisor for the program, so when the station decided to expand its reach, she scouted for places in her hometown. La Soga had high reviews, and the Muñoz family was eager to work with the crew to accommodate the event, so they were chosen.

Lansing schools had started classes earlier in the week, so the crowd at La Soga grew as parents

stopped by with their kids on the way to school. Many of the Thursday-morning patrons were already familiar with La Soga, but the advertisements on La Que Buena 105.1 leading up to the event drew in new customers as well.

Primo Rafa understands that advertising on the radio is too expensive for many small businesses, so he enjoys doing promotions like this. The event gave him an opportunity to give away 80 backpacks for school kids, and by hosting it at La Soga, he gave the Muñoz family an opportunity to enjoy two hours of publicity for the cost of some free breakfasts.

After the event officially ended at 8:00am, the Munoz family took time to pose with Primo Rafa.

From left: Primo Rafa, Emiliano, Ximena, Martha, and Gilberto Muñoz, and Aaron, who helps manage each production and does “whatever’s needed.”

(Photo: Melanie Jongsma)

The food itself is more convincing than a paid advertisement would be, and now that people are familiar with the location, they are more likely to return.

Martha Muñoz, who had been nervous about serving an unknown number of people two hours before the restaurant normally opens, was both exhausted and enthusiastic by the end of the morning. She’s already looking forward to the restaurant’s next big event—they will be a vendor at Autumn Fest 2019, for all three

days, and the Burnham Avenue location will remain open during that time as well. Autumn Fest is October 11, 12, and 13 at Fox Pointe (18138 Henry Street).

View more photos and video from Primo Rafa’s visit at [www.thelansingjournal.com/news](http://www.thelansingjournal.com/news) (search for “La Soga”).

Taqueria La Soga is located at 19267 Burnham Avenue in Lansing, Illinois.



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LONG READ

# The Carriers: two men in two eras recall life as US postal workers

BY JOSH BOOTSMA

## 1. THE MEN

Paul Schultz squinted at the mail slot in the front door of the Lansing residence. He shifted his gaze to the coconut in his hand and re-read the address that had been carved into its round surface. Perhaps he'd just have to leave it on the porch.

He continued his route, the same one that he would walk for three decades. Take out the mail, make sure the addresses match, place it in the slot or box. And repeat.

Now 80 years old, Schultz spent nearly all his professional life working for the United States Postal Service, even before it was called by that name. Interrupted only by a four-year stint in the Air Force, Schultz spent his days walking the streets of the only town he's ever called home until retiring at age 55.

When 20-year old Schultz first heard from his aunt that the Post Office was hiring, Lansing boasted a population of only 3,000 and had only six mail routes.

Schultz began with the post office as a part-time employee, where three times a week he was tasked with making sure the outgoing mail made its way into Chicago. To accomplish this, he would assemble the mail into a bag and head to the train tracks where he attached it to the mail crane and used the pulley system to hoist it to just the right height. As the train chugged past, a mail car with a specially designed hook would snatch the bag from the crane as it traveled towards the city.

It wasn't long before Schultz became a full-time mail carrier for the USPS, walking the business district of Ridge Road, the same street where he would one day lead tours as Village Historian, over half a century later. \* \* \*

Aldo Sulli flashed a smile across his face. "Yes, ma'am. I'll do my best."

The words were true, but the smile was fake.

As he left the Post Office to begin his route, Sulli swallowed his anxiety and resolved to try his hardest to get his mail delivered on time with no mistakes, though he

knew it wouldn't be good enough. As he walked from mailbox to mailbox, he was mindful not to talk too long to any of the residents he encountered, something he used to enjoy doing. He avoided food and drink in the morning so he wouldn't have to make a restroom stop during his day on the streets. There just wasn't time for any of it.

Sulli started working for the post office in his early twenties and delivered mail in the Gary, Indiana area for 32 years. Close to where he grew



Left: Paul Schultz delivered mail in Lansing from 1959 to 1995. Right: Aldo Sulli delivered mail in Gary and surrounding neighborhoods from 1984 to 2016. Both miss the sense of community that used to characterize the job. (Photos provided)

up, his first routes were in the Glen Park area of South Gary. After walking the streets for 16 years he was moved north to Miller Beach, where he delivered mail near Lake Michigan, splitting his time between walking and driving. He ended his career in Lake Station, where he began his battle with multiple sclerosis—which eventually made his job too difficult to endure.

A Lansing resident since 1989, Sulli spent many of his days as a mail carrier longing for his next vacation but dreading the mess that might accrue while he was gone. In a perfect world, he would look forward to walking through and interacting with the community, but the ever-increasing burdens of productivity he had to bear every day made carrying his mail bag that much harder.

## 2. THE MAIL

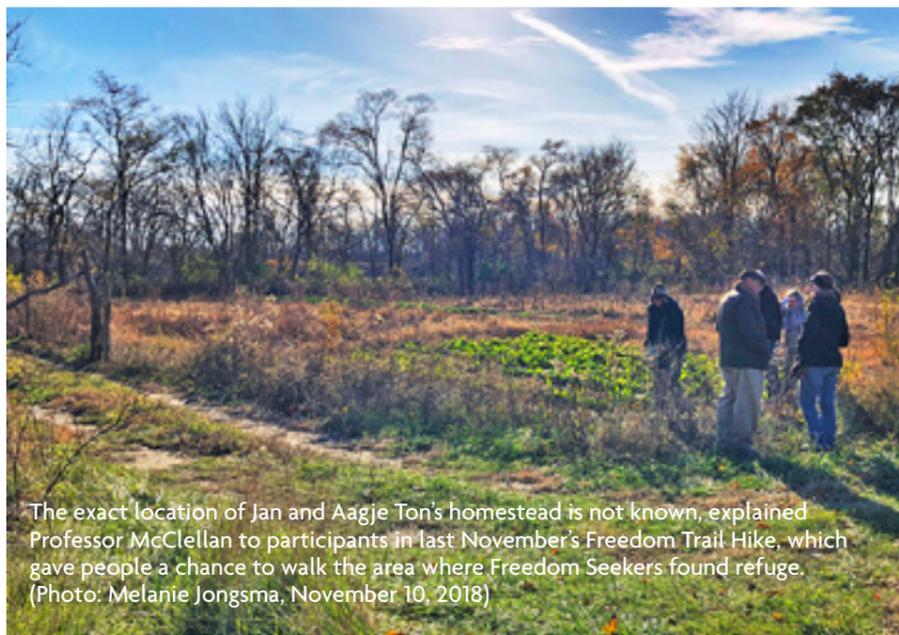
Years before Sulli would take to the streets, Schultz came into the post office once a month on Sunday to "get the dispatch ready." This entailed amassing the mail from any collection boxes in Lansing and separating it by state, or, in the case of Chicago-area-bound mail, separating it into one of a couple dozen Chicago regions. Around 1960, Schultz moved on from his part-time job as a dispatch clerk to become a full-time carrier, starting his day the same way every mail carrier has started his or her day for decades—by "casing" the mail.

"Casing" refers to the process of dividing out the day's mail by address and bundling it. Using a large grid

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# Ton Farm achieves national designation as significant Underground Railroad site

Professor Larry McClellan's research recognized



The exact location of Jan and Aagje Ton's homestead is not known, explained Professor McClellan to participants in last November's Freedom Trail Hike, which gave people a chance to walk the area where Freedom Seekers found refuge. (Photo: Melanie Jongsma, November 10, 2018)

INFORMATION PROVIDED BY THE LITTLE CALUMET RIVER UNDERGROUND RAILROAD PROJECT

CHICAGO, Ill. (August 28, 2019) – The National Park Service (NPS) has accepted the Jan and Aagje Tom Farm site to be included in the National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom registry. The NPS has found that the location "makes a significant contribution to the understanding of the Underground Railroad in American history and that it meets the requirements for inclusion as a site."

The Ton Farm site is located roughly at 134th Street and St. Lawrence Avenue—about 11 miles from Lansing. It originally contained 40 acres along the north bank of the Little Calumet River during the period of the 1840s until the Civil War. It has been documented that this was an important "station" on the Underground Railroad network prior to Emancipation, and had been a "safe house" for countless numbers of Freedom Seekers during their perilous journeys to Canada and other places in the northern states.

Documentation had been submitted by Professor Larry McClellan (retired), the foremost authority on the Underground Railroad in northern Illinois, who had been researching this site and others in the region for years. McClellan had done the research on behalf of landowner Ronald Gaines, as well as the Little Calumet River Underground Railroad Project.

The Ton Farm is the third documented site in the area south of Chicago to gain such recognition, joining two other sites that had been selected for the national registry earlier: the Crete Congregational Church and Cemetery, and the I & M Canal Headquarters in Lockport. Both had been thoroughly researched and applied for by Prof. McClellan.

The Little Calumet River Underground Railroad Project has been conducting tours and educational events in recent years and endeavors to see a monument dedicated to Freedom Seekers and local abolitionists who risked everything to assist escaped slaves who traveled through the area.

An announcement celebration will be held at the Pullman National Monument Visitor Center (11141 S. Cottage Grove Ave. Chicago, IL 60628) on Sunday, September 29 at 4:00pm. More information is available on the Facebook page of the Little Calumet River Underground Railroad Project.

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# Village issues Public Meeting Notice for Wentworth improvement project

Thursday, September 12, 10:00am, at Village Hall

BY MELANIE JONGSMA

LANSING, Ill. (August 26, 2019) – At the August 20 Village Board meeting, Village Administrator Dan Podgorski announced that a Public Meeting will be held regarding the Wentworth Avenue resurfacing project scheduled to take place in 2020. A memo from Assistant Village Engineer Steve Kaminsky explained that the project includes not only resurfacing from Ridge Road to 177th Place, but also “curb, gutter, and sidewalk improvements, and restriping...[that] will reduce the number of lanes from four to three for this entire roadway segment” from Ridge Road to Bernice Road.

The three lanes will include a dedicated lane in each direction and a shared center lane for left turns. Because the traffic pattern will be changing, a Public Meeting is required before the project can proceed.

### CHANGING LANES

The change will allow for lanes that are slightly wider, which is particularly helpful along the outside lanes where the road meets the curb, and where manhole covers are installed. The additional space away from the outside edges can help preserve the roads and curbs.

In addition, Kaminsky reported that four lanes



Wider lanes can help prevent damage where the road meets the curb. (Photo: Melanie Jongsma, 8/23/19)

are not necessary to accommodate the amount of traffic on Wentworth, and that crash data suggests a dedicated left turn lane increases safety by reducing rear-end collisions.

### PUBLIC MEETING

The Village of Lansing is inviting the interested public to attend an Open House Public Meeting about the resurfacing project. Plans showing the proposed improvements—including pavement markings—will be available for review.

The meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 12, 2019, from 10:00am to 11:00am.

The meeting will take place in the Community Room at the Lansing Municipal Center, 3141 Ridge Road, Lansing, IL 60438

The agenda will include discussion of the proposed improvements and the project schedule, and there will be time for public comments. Exhibits will be on display, and representatives from the Village of Lansing and their consultants will be present to discuss the project and answer questions.

### PUBLIC COMMENTS

Written comments regarding the project may be completed at the public meeting or mailed to Administrator Podgorski no later than September 20, 2019. A comment box will be provided for all questions and concerns.

The Municipal Center is accessible to people with a disability, and if additional special accommodations are needed, those can be requested by September 5, 2019.

For more information, contact Dan Podgorski, Village Administrator, Village of Lansing, 3141 Ridge Road, Lansing, 708-895-7200.

# Lansing Fire Department introduces Bill Stubitsch as Deputy Chief

BY JOSH BOOTSMA

LANSING, Ill. (August 21, 2019) – The Lansing Fire Department introduced its newest deputy chief Bill Stubitsch at the Tuesday night Village Board Meeting. Stubitsch served as an engineer at the department before being promoted to the position.

Stubitsch will take over the position previously held by Deputy Chief Mike Templeman after his retirement. Stubitsch will hold the title of Deputy Chief alongside John Grady, who was appointed to the position in May. As part of a recent restructuring move in the LFD, the position of deputy chief was split into two positions: One deputy chief to handle training-related matters—the position which Grady holds—and the other to handle operations, to which Stubitsch was appointed.

Lansing Fire Department Chief Chad Kooyenga swore Stubitsch in before inviting his wife forward to pin his new badge on his uniform.

After receiving a standing ovation, Stubitsch took a moment to explain the significance of his badge number, which firefighters may choose for themselves.

“I was the 29th full time fireman in the Village of Lansing so I always had number 29,” he explained, “but all through my sons’ careers, all four of them played baseball and they were always number two...[so] my new number as Deputy Chief of Lansing is 2902.”

Stubitsch’s family was in attendance Tuesday night to witness his appointment.



Bill Stubitsch was introduced to the Village Board at the August 20 meeting, where his wife pinned on his badge. (Photo: Josh Bootsma)

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OF AUDIT REPORT OF  
THORNTON TOWNSHIP**

Thornton Township hereby provides public notice that an audit of its funds for the period of March 1, 2018 through February 28, 2019 for General Fund, General Assistance Fund and Road & Bridge Fund has been made, and that a report of such audit dated August 26, 2019 has been filed with the County Clerk of Cook County, in accordance with 30 ILCS 15/0.01 et seq.

The full report of the audit is available for public inspection at 900 E. 162nd Street, South Holland, IL 60473 during regular business hours between 9am and 4pm, Monday through Friday, except for holidays.

# OBITUARIES

## ENGELBRECHT

A Memorial Mass for Dorothy J. Engelbrecht (nee O'Neil) will be held on September 6th, 2019, at St. Maria Goretti Church.

Mrs. Engelbrecht was born October 19, 1922, and died August 21, 2019. She was the wife of the late Gordon Engelbrecht; mother of Susan (Ron) Pallot, James (Paula), Thomas, Carol (late John) Pedersoli, Robert, the late William Engelbrecht and Jan A. (John) Grzadzinski; grandmother of 8; great-grandmother of 9; aunt of many nieces and nephews.

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

## GRANDE

A Private Remembrance took place on August 7, 2019, for Susan C. Grande of Calumet City IL.

Ms. Grande was born August 13, 1943, and passed away Sunday, August 4, 2019. She was preceded in death by parents Joseph and Lucille Grande, sister Mary June Grande Phillips, and nephew Gregory Phillips. She is survived by brother Joseph Grande, Jr.; niece LuAnne Phillips; cousins Charlene (John), Vivian (Conrad), Steve (Stacy), Mary Ann (Bill), Rita (Wally), and Natalie; good friend Bill Varnadoe and best buddy "Bundy."

Inurnment was private. Arrangements were entrusted to Castle-Hill Funeral Home, Calumet City, IL.

## OLSON

A Memorial Service for Rose Marie Olson (nee Glenville) was held Tuesday, September 3, 2019, at Smits Funeral Home in Dyer, IN.

Mrs. Olson was born September 17, 1947, and passed away August 28, 2019. Mother of Lisa Olson, John Olson, and Jimmy Olson. Grandmother of Avery Rose McAfee. Sister of Carol Ryan and Mary Pat McNamara.

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

## SCHAEFLEIN

A Funeral Mass for Laurence D. "Larry" Schaefflein was held on August 31, 2019, at St. Elizabeth Seton Church with Rev. William Gubbins officiating.

Mr. Schaefflein was born February 17, 1932, and died August 27, 2019. He was the husband of Rosemary (nee Walsh); father of Rosemary (late Karl) (Felix De Leon) Thorne, Ann Marie, Marie, Barbara (Joseph) Lynch, Patricia (Bill) Kurth, Catherine (John) Bonini, Laura, Elizabeth (Donald) Marta and the late Laurence H. Schaefflein; grandfather of Billy, Kailey & Allison Kurth, Ryan & Colin Bonini, Jacob, Joshua & Andrew Marta; brother of Karl (Helen) Schaefflein; brother-in-law of Ernest Heath, Eileen Dioguardi, Sheila Goosherst and Marion Schaefflein; uncle of many nieces and nephews.

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

## WISNIEWSKI

A Prayer Service for Norma A. Wisniewski was held Tuesday, September 3, 2019, at Smits Funeral Home in Dyer, IN, with Deacon Tim Springer officiating.

Mrs. Wisniewski was born July 25, 1930, and passed away August 30, 2019. Wife of the late Steven A. Wisniewski. Mother of Joseph Bretton, Debbie (Paul) Griva, and Steve (Diane) Wisniewski. Grandmother of 5.

Interment was at Holy Cross Cemetery, Calumet City, 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.*

## Two Lansing students from Marian Catholic High School receive AP Scholar recognition

### Christina Javorka and Ethan Roberts recognized as AP Scholars with Distinction and National AP Scholars

INFORMATION PROVIDED BY MARIAN CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

CHICAGO HEIGHTS, Ill. (August 28, 2019) – The College Board has distributed AP Scholar Awards to 95 Marian Catholic students. This comes after students were notified of their scores in July.

Among those 95 were two Lansing residents—Christina Javorka and Ethan Roberts—whose scores were high enough to earn Distinction and National AP Scholar status.

According to the College Board website, "The AP Scholar Awards recognize high school students who have demonstrated exemplary college-level achievement on AP Exams. A roster of award recipients is provided online to their secondary schools and districts. Additionally, students are able to print a copy of their award certificate(s) online, and the awards are reflected on all score reports sent to colleges after awards are conferred."

There are two steps in calculating the awards to students. The first step is the student's average AP score is determined based on all exams taken this year and in previous years. Second, the student's exam scores are checked to see which ones count toward the various AP Scholar Awards. A student must meet all criteria to be eligible.

Five Marian Catholic students received the AP Capstone Diploma which is granted to students who earn scores of 3 or higher in AP Seminar and AP Research and on four additional AP Exams of their choosing. Marian Catholic is one of 63 high schools in Illinois that are approved to participate in AP Capstone.

### ABOUT MARIAN CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

Marian Catholic High School is a Catholic, coeducational, college preparatory high school within the Dominican tradition of study, prayer, community, and preaching. Marian Catholic students seek truth, exhibit personal responsibility, cultivate their individual talents, and demonstrate ethical leadership and Christian service. Visit [www.marianchs.com](http://www.marianchs.com) for more information.

Marian Catholic High School is located at 700 Ashland Avenue in Chicago Heights, Illinois.



Christine Javorka (Photo provided)



Ethan Roberts (Photo provided)

## Lansing police respond to armed robbery at Auto Zone

INFORMATION PROVIDED BY LANSING POLICE DEPARTMENT

LANSING, Ill. (August 19, 2019) – On August 18, 2019, at 10:33am, the Lansing Police Department responded to the Auto Zone, located at 18307 Torrence Avenue, for a report of an armed robbery that had just occurred.

Upon arrival, officers located a male victim outside the business with a gunshot wound to the chest. The victim, age 58, was treated by Lansing Paramedics and transported to Munster Community Hospital. The victim was ultimately treated and released from the hospital that same day.

The investigation revealed that an African American male subject entered the store and displayed a handgun. After taking an undetermined amount of money, the offender fled on foot. The male victim exited the store, in an attempt to obtain the offending vehicle information, and was subsequently shot by the offender.

The offender is described as an African American male, 5'08"–5'11" with a thin build. He was last seen leaving the area in a black SUV.

If anyone has additional information concerning this event, they are asked to contact the Lansing Police Department at 708-895-7150.

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## Unity Christian Academy starts second year of doing high school differently

High ropes courses, “crossing the line,” and team-building activities mark first week of “redefined” high school

BY JOSH BOOTSMA

SOUTH HOLLAND, Ill. (August 29, 2019) – Just over a year ago, South Holland Mayor Don De Graff stood with a crowd of teachers, students, board members, and community stakeholders and cut the ceremonial ribbon in front of Unity Christian Academy, officially marking the school's opening. On August 19 of this year, the high school opened its doors and welcomed students for its second year.

Located at 16341 South Park Avenue in South Holland, Unity Christian Academy (UCA) is a small Christian high school dedicated to doing education differently. The school labels itself as “High School. Redefined. Redesigned.”

Last school year, UCA welcomed 23 freshmen to its current home, the easternmost wing of Calvary Community Church in South Holland. This year, the combined number of freshman and sophomores is 39, with a waiting list in place for freshman.

### THE FIRST WEEK

In line with the school's commitment to doing high school differently, students and teachers spent the first day of school at Camp Manitoqua in Frankfort, Ill., where the students participated in high ropes courses and interactive team-building activities.

Students spent the next day at school, but instead of diving into classes, they were treated to a more introspective day, where teachers were focused on making students feel like they belong. Jason Perry, founder of Oak Tree Leadership in South Holland, led students in a “Cross the Line” activity that helped them bond with their classmates by realizing their similarities. Perry would read a statement or question, and those who agreed or identified with what he said would move to a different part of the room, giving students and teachers alike a visual way to get to know each other.

Classes started on Wednesday, August 21, when students began their first of six “modules.” A new scheduling strategy this year, the school will



Unity Christian Academy students and faculty gathered for a team-building activity during their first week of school. (Photo provided)

break down its year into six, six-week modules rather than four quarters. This allows students to have breaks from certain classes throughout the year and affords them the opportunity to take more elective courses. Some of these elective courses this year will allow students to study gardening, ceramics, novel writing, photography, climate change, and more.

### STUDENT-DRIVEN EXTRACURRICULARS

Students are already excited for what the extracurricular scene may hold for this school year. Given the school's size, teachers are in the unique position of creating extracurricular opportunities tailored to the students' interests. Last year's extracurriculars were mock trial, drama club, student government, yearbook, basketball, and chess club. This year the same extracurriculars will carry over, and it is likely that more will materialize based on student interest. Students who would like to create their own club are invited to fill out an application to do so.

In talking with potential students, Unity Christian's Head of School Loukisha Smart-Pennix often meets kids who have previous experience in an extracurricular program UCA hasn't yet established, such as band or a basketball team. Those conversations give her opportunities to position the school's smallness as a strength.

“This is an experience where you get to craft what the ‘next’ looks like for you,” she said, proud that UCA not only offers a variety of extracurriculars, but is able to allow students to develop

both existing and new ones.

### LEARNING FROM LAST YEAR

Small policy changes have taken effect in year two, as well as a greater awareness of how to best communicate with students. “I am most grateful for the lessons learned in year one that have brought us to the place of year two,” Smart-Pennix said.

As an example, she pointed to communicating the goals and expectations of students on day one as an improvement over last year, when expectations weren't always immediately made clear.

“Literally [it means] having students walk in the door and [we're] saying, ‘I want you to be successful,’” Smart-Pennix said.

### UCA FACULTY AND STAFF

Joining the teaching staff at UCA this year are Noah Friesen (Math), Mary Nyaema (Science), and Julia Mofett and Marlene Boonstra, who will be splitting duties teaching art. The new teachers join Charis Bootsma (English and Faith Formation) and Amy Veldboom (World Culture). Neil Okuley is the school's academic dean and also teaches history. Mike Nysten is the director of operations and finance.

### A HISTORY OF COMMUNITY COMMITMENT

Community stakeholders first held a meeting about starting a Christian high school in South Holland five years ago, where a vision for a community-oriented school began to take form. Today, Unity Christian Academy's mission is “Empowering a diverse

community, united by Christ, to achieve excellence in education for the flourishing of all creation.” The school's sliding scale tuition model exemplifies the diversity aspect of its mission, as UCA makes Christian education available to families who might not otherwise be able to afford it, ensuring that the learning environment includes perspectives from a variety of socioeconomic backgrounds.

“[The sliding scale tuition model] has made this opportunity available for so many community residents who would have never had the pleasure of Christian education—

but have always desired it for their children,” said Smart-Pennix, “With us being intentional about the community that we sit in, it allows us to give this gift of education to far many more community residents than before. It makes a difference.”

Unity Christian Academy is located at 16341 South Park Ave. in South Holland. More information can be found about the school on its website, [weareuca.org](http://weareuca.org).

## LFD joins with three other fire departments in Cornerstone Training

BY KATIE ARVIA

LANSING, Ill. (August 31, 2019) – The Lansing Fire Department will be working closely with Calumet City, South Holland, and Dolton Fire Departments during a September Cornerstone Training. The Cornerstone Program is offered by the Illinois Fire Service Institute (IFSI), which supports advanced learning principles for fire services throughout the state of Illinois.

IFSI will bring the four departments together at a local training facility for three eight-hour training sessions on September 10, 11, and 12. Going forward, firefighters from the four towns will continue hands-on training together once per month.

Deputy Chief John Grady, who worked to bring the Cornerstone Program to Lansing, stated that these fire departments often respond to the same fires, so training together makes sense.

“We respond to fires together, we might as well be training together,” Grady said at the August 20 Committee of the Whole meeting. Grady also stated that Cornerstone training will continue every other month, with rotating locations throughout the four towns.

“When [the training] is being hosted in Dolton, our people have the opportunity to go over and train in Dolton, and vice versa, with Calumet City and South Holland. When we do that, we'll obviously be assisting everyone. If their crews are in training, we'll be covering their calls and when our crew is in [training], they will be assisting with our calls,” Grady said.

This rotating training throughout the four towns will continue until May, at which time the program will be reevaluated. Grady is hopeful that the program will continue after the initial eight-month period, especially since the training is of no cost to the village or to the fire department. IFSI funding is supported through the Office of the Illinois State Fire Marshal.

IFSI serves over 11,000 students each year through their Cornerstone Program.

## Julie Venem retires after 40 years with District 215

BY MELANIE JONGSMA



The family of Julie Venem (center, holding grandbaby) attended Venem's final Board meeting on August 27 and joined the School Board for a final photo. (Photo: Melanie Jongsma)

LANSING, Ill. (August 27, 2019) – “As a member of this Board of Education, I've asked a lot of questions,” said District 215 Board President Michael Bolz at the August 27 meeting. “And I've learned over the last eight and a half years that the most common answer to every question I've ever asked is, ‘Ask Julie.’” Bolz went on to describe Julie Venem as a “wealth of institutional knowledge” and to thank her for her service to the district, to the community, and to students and their families throughout the years. “You will be sorely missed,” said Bolz.

# Readers' Summer Haiku project comes to an end

## Valentina Ranaldi-Adams and Bev Jacobson close out the season

BY MELANIE JONGSMA

LANSING, Ill. (September 1, 2019) – "I wrote this five/ seven/five seventeen-syllable haiku especially for the Lansing Journal's Haiku Project," wrote Valentina Ranaldi-Adams. "I usually write Modern English Language Haiku, which does not use this form."

summer in full bloom –  
purple irises that did  
not survive winter

Valentina Ranaldi-Adams

We are pleased that our little writing project has encouraged creative people to explore new forms of creativity!

Reader Bev Jacobson told us, "I haven't written a haiku since my son and daughters were students at Oak Glen school in the 1970s." Apparently our Summer Haiku project reignited a latent spark, as Bev submitted eight haiku at once! "I had a lot of fun with the summer theme!" she said.

Bev was not presuming that we would publish all of them, but...how could we choose?

The Bev Jacobson collection:

Minnesota night  
Northern lights glowing above  
A heavenly sight

Bouncing in the wake  
Tubing more fun than You Tube!  
Summer on the lake

Hear the lonely loon  
Call his mate from the next lake  
Crooning to the moon

The Mississippi  
Flowing from Lake Itasca  
Walk across on stones

Starbursts in the sky  
Celebrate Fourth of July  
Oohs and Aahs abound

Drifting on the lake  
Watching an awesome sunset  
Nature at her best

Clamp-on roller skates  
Playing hopscotch in the street  
Old time summer fun

Thunder rumbling near  
As lightning brightens the sky  
Rain refreshing earth

**THANK YOU FOR HAIKUING!**

In addition to Valentina Ranaldi-Adams and Bev Jacobson, we'd like to thank all our Summer Haikuists who made this project so fun: Daniel Blom, Mary Paulton, Rose Polgar, Sydney Schurman, Carol Van Drunen, and Tish Yos.

You can read their haiku at [www.thelansingjournal.com/news](http://www.thelansingjournal.com/news) (search "haiku").

# Lansing's Ed Trevino publishes 'feel-good' dog story

INFORMATION PROVIDED BY PAGE PUBLISHING

LANSING, Ill. (August 20, 2019) – Ed Trevino describes himself as a "lifelong animal lover."



The youngest of seven children, he spent his childhood in rural Chicago Heights, Illinois, before moving

to Lansing in 1966.

The introduction to Trevino's new book, *Skippy's Rescue: An Easter Island Adventure*, includes a story about young Ed and his natural affinity for animals. The incident is told by a neighbor, who recalls two neighborhood German Shepherds that were kept in a chain-link fence and would bark and growl at passersby: "One day as I was walking home, I heard the two [German Shepherds] barking. When I looked toward the dogs, I saw Ed climbing the fence to be with the dogs. Before I could call out Ed's name in

fear the dogs would attack him, he had already landed on the other side of the fence with the dogs. Fearing the dogs would attack Ed, I hurried to the fence, only to witness Ed standing between the ferocious dogs, petting each dog as if they were best of friends."

*Skippy's Rescue* is the true story about a stray puppy who captured the heart of Ed Trevino and his wife Angelique while they were on vacation on Easter Island. When a stray puppy is placed on Trevino's lap, a bond is formed, and an adventure begins. The

story relays the trials and tribulations involved in rescuing the puppy, and a detailed account of the formidable logistics involved in bringing a foreign-born companion animal into the United States.

Published by New York City-based Page Publishing, Trevino's book is "the ultimate must-read for anyone who has ever loved or been loved by a dog."

*Skippy's Rescue: An Easter Island Adventure* is available at bookstores everywhere, or online at Apple Books, Amazon.com, Google Books, and Barnes & Noble.

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# International, from page 1

who worked to make the show possible. A representative from Guadalajara's government brought greetings from Mexico.

Sergio Suarez is president of NAIMA, and he described the whirlwind tour the troupe has been on—Las Vegas, Los Angeles, San Francisco, and more, most recently Millennium Park and Evanston, Illinois. In closing, he told the crowd, "We need to not forget why we came to this country. We came to work hard. We came to make a better future for our families. And we came to contribute to keeping and making this country the greatest country that it's ever been." The crowd whooped and applauded in agreement.

The show then opened with a soloist in a black mariachi gala suit singing America's national anthem, accompanied by the simple strumming of guitars. As the song built to a climax, the stage curtains opened to reveal a nine-member mariachi ensemble playing guitarrón, vihuela, and violins, swelling to "the land of the free and the home of the brave."

## CULTURAL CELEBRATION

Each year, the theme of the

program is "Mexico in the Heart," and the theme song created for the program has become one of the most popular numbers in the show. Other numbers change from year to year, in an effort to keep the show fresh for returning audiences and make sure the full breadth of Mexican culture is represented. This year the sampling included cowboy dancing from the Mexican state of Baja California, love songs on psalter and harp, knife and machete dancing from the state of Nayarit, and Tapatian Serenades from Jalisco. ("Tapatian" is the colloquial term for someone from Guadalajara.)

The music and movements may have been especially meaningful to the Mexicans in the crowd, but others were moved by the performance as well, even without the

nostalgia factor. "Thank you for bringing this to Lansing. This was really wonderful," said an African

American woman to Village Trustees in the parking lot after the show.

"I saw it in Millennium Park once," said a Chicago resident who traveled to Lansing for Saturday's performance, "but I like this one much better." The venue was comfortable, and small enough to get a good view of the intricate footwork and detailed costumes.

## PLANNING AHEAD

Village officials are already wondering whether a larger venue will be needed if the show returns next year. Last year, the TF South auditorium was nearly at capacity, and this year people turned away when they couldn't find a seat. "México en el Corazón" attracts an audience from at least a 30-mile radius, helping Lansing fulfill its vision of becoming a destination.

But for now, Martha Vargas and her huge network of sponsors, donors, venues, and organizations are focused on the 2019 tour. After Lansing, the show's itinerary included Elgin, Illinois; Lafayette, Indiana; Nashville, Tennessee; and Dallas and Houston, Texas.

"Thank you to all of our sponsors, every performer, every dancer, everyone here today," the emcee had said at the beginning of Saturday's show. "All of these people, everyone is helping us carry Mexico in our hearts."

To view video from Saturday's performance, visit the online version of this story at [www.thelansingjournal.com/news](http://www.thelansingjournal.com/news) (search for "International dance").



A 9-member mariachi band accompanied the soloist singing America's national anthem. (Photo: Melanie Jongsma)



1: Hannah Berridge and Reyna Espinoza are part of the Latin Dance Group at TF South, which formed after last year's performance by the Ballet Folklórico. The group volunteered as event staff on Saturday. 2: The Baile Calabaceado combines cowboy dance, hoedown, jumps, turns, kicks, polka, and waltz-like moves. 3: Traditional costumes are part of the love story represented in the elegant dances of Jalisco. 4: Many in the crowd did their best to capture the program on video to replay later and share with others. (Photos: Melanie Jongsma)

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# One Trick Pony gives update on Ridge Road location

Owner Mark Kocol assures “sooner rather than later”

BY JOSH BOOTSMA

LANSING, Ill. (August 24, 2019) – Almost a year to date after One Trick Pony was approved for a Class 8 tax incentive for a new Ridge Road location, Mark Kocol, owner of the brewery, announced during Tuesday night’s Village Board Meeting that he still plans to open a location there—though the process for the opening has been, and will continue to be, a slow moving one.

### DOING IT RIGHT

Kocol said that his lack of expertise running a restaurant and doing the type of construction work that is needed at 3329 Ridge Road—the former De Young Furniture store—have been two reasons for the long timeline, as well as the time demands of operating the brewery.

“While all that’s going on there’s still a day job and a family and all that stuff,” he explained.

“I want to do this privately with a handful of folks and I’m working with folks right now [for the] construction



3329 Ridge Road is the former home of De Young Furniture, only a short walk away from Fox Pointe. (Photo: Josh Bootsma, 2018)

as well as restaurant.... I’m finally starting to fill out a lineup card with those folks to be able to do this and do it right,” Kocol said.

Kocol did not share any specific timeline information, simply offering, “sooner rather than later.”

### THE VISION

Kocol envisions having the same beers on tap at both the brewery and the restaurant. He is not ready to share any menu items, though he does have a vision for what he wants the restaurant to be like.

“It’s going to be a very comfortable place to go in and have a bite to eat, a good beer, a glass of wine—with your wife, your kids, your parents. It’s going to be inviting for everyone.... It’s going to be something the Village is proud of,” Kocol said.

The planned location for the restaurant is 3329 Ridge Road, a corner property in downtown Lansing that could see business from concert and event-goers at Fox Pointe, only a short walk away.

### RUSHING FOR TAX INCENTIVES

Kocol attributes the many questions he’s received about the new location to the fact that the brewery was rushed to apply for a Class 8 incentive before they were ready to begin the Ridge Road project. The Lansing Board of Trustees held a special meeting on August 28, 2018, to approve some Lansing businesses’ tax incentive status,



One Trick Pony owner Mark Kocol is committed to opening a location at 3329 Ridge Road and wants to take the time to “do it right.” (Photo: Carrie Steinweg, 2017)

anticipating changes from the state that would make the incentive program less advantageous and accessible. One Trick Pony was one of the businesses approved for the incentive program, which made the new location public knowledge before Kocol was ready to take action.

### GROWING THE PONY’S POPULARITY

The current One Trick Pony location opened in 2012 and has grown in popularity since. What Kocol once labeled a one-year experiment has turned into an established brewery that sells its beer in dozens of Chicago-land locations. Kocol hopes the next step in growing the business will be making good use of the unique corner property on Ridge Road.

“Nothing’s open till it’s actually open, but this is something that I think about and am working on daily,” Kocol said.

One Trick Pony is located at 17845-17851 Chappel Ave.

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Sandler's Shoes is located at 3313 Ridge Road in Lansing, Illinois. (Photo: Ashlee De Wit)

# Sandler's Shoes takes steps toward more medical approach

BY ASHLEE DE WIT

LANSING, IL (August 30, 2019) — Under new ownership, a long-time Lansing business is taking steps toward a more medical approach to footwear.

Derek Schwartz took over Sandler's Shoes on Ridge Road in February 2019. Second-generation owner Beverly Sandler is expected to officially transfer ownership to Schwartz later this month. Sandler's father, Abraham Sandler, started his business in Hammond in 1962, and the store moved to downtown Lansing more than 20 years ago.

Sandler's has always taken pride in providing their customers with the best-fitting, most comfortable shoes available. Schwartz would like to continue that legacy.

## A ONE-STOP SHOP

"Lansing residents now have a one-stop shop for all things concerning your feet," Schwartz said. "[We have] increased brand selection, custom orthotics, shoe modifications, diabetic shoes and inserts, wide widths...and specialty products for ailments."



Sandler's Shoes is now stocked with new brands. (Photo: Ashlee De Wit)

The store has also added a machine to take 3D imaging to help any of its customers figure out which inserts to get—or allow them to make a 3D-printed custom insert.

Dr. Mary Peterson, a chiropractor, is also partnering with Sandler Shoes. She is available by appointment on Tuesdays.

"It's an amazing service," Schwartz said. "We have no qualms about reaching out to doctors, and we'll work with their treatments to help their patients. Foot health is

directly associated with your independence as an individual."

## ONE STEP AT A TIME

Schwartz is a licensed pedorthist who already owns Nobile Shoes, which has two locations in Florida. He is planning to bring his own experience to his newest location. However, he will be splitting time between Lansing and Florida, so Phill Sullivan, who was previously the manager at one of the Florida stores, has been the acting manager at Sandler's Shoes since February. Sullivan is currently obtaining his pedorthic license.

More is yet to come for the Lansing shoe shop. Schwartz has plans for a remodel, to update the decor and displays. He'd like to bring in more brands to join the ones he has already added. And he plans to open a shoe repair lab in the store.

Ben Knepper, a custom shoe and orthotic manufacturer, is slated to join the staff full time. His start date is tentatively scheduled for October.

For more information about products, services, or changes, contact Sandler's Shoes at (708) 895-0833.

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# Carriers, from page 4

stippled with dividers, carriers divide up the day's mail by address, in the order in which they travel their route.

"Every letter carrier knew what eighteen-and-eight meant" Schultz said. This was the casing per-minute standard referring to letters and flats. A mail carrier was expected to sort 18 letters per minute or eight newspapers, magazines, or other large mailers.

After the mail was cased, Schultz would bundle each house's mail using string, though the USPS would later switch to rubber bands. "I noticed when we used to use string, every bird's nest in Lansing had post office string in it," Schultz recalled.

Decades later, Sulli's usual day began much the same way—casing the mail. As the Post Office moved away from "many hands make quick work" to "many computers make even quicker work," an increasing amount of mail came in pre-sorted through an automated process, eliminating the need to sort through it. Other pieces didn't have an address at all, intended to be delivered to every address on Sulli's route. Although this shortened his sorting time in the morning, it complicated his duties on the streets. In addition to carrying his 20-pound bag and avoiding sidewalk hazards and garden hoses, he now had four bundles to check when delivering mail to a house (compared to Schultz's one large bundle): "residual mail" (a letter from a friend, for instance), automated letters, small parcels, and sales papers. After a difficult day on the job, Sulli once told his wife Cindy that the ideal mail carrier would be an octopus.

### 3. OUT ON THE STREETS

Sulli arrived at work at 7:00am every morning, cased his mail, and loaded up his mail truck for the day's work. Though he walked exclusively for the first half of his career, his time at Miller Beach and Lake Station were spent in and out of his truck. Many of his routes were called "park and loop" routes, meaning Sulli would park the truck at the end of the street, deliver the mail down both sides, move the truck to a new area, and do it all over again.

During his time near Lake Michigan on his Miller Beach route, Sulli became friends with many of his postal customers, some of whom invited him to bring the mail into their homes.

"I'd walk right into their kitchen and set their packages and their mail down, and the guy'd be downstairs [and say,] 'Hey, how ya doing, Aldo?' 'I'm all right,' I'd say, 'you don't need to come up to sign anything....I got to know a lot of people,'" Sulli said. An added perk, Sulli, Cindy, and their two sons Anthony and Dominic never had to worry about finding a place to park if they visited the beach—his friends on the route always came through.

Later in his career as the USPS took steps to be more efficient, Sulli had to scan barcodes on certain mailboxes along his route. The Post Office said these intermittent scans were part of an effort to make sure each postal customer got his/her mail at about the same time every day. Sulli thinks it was just as much an effort to make sure the carriers were on schedule.

As productivity numbers became more important, management implemented stricter timetables for the carriers' routes, ones that Sulli knew he would have trouble sticking to. He dreaded having a ride-along from management, for fear that more addresses would be added to his route if they thought he could work faster.

"Literally every minute, every second, was accounted for," Sulli said, "the stress was unbelievable."

But long before such stringent time demands, there were other stressors for mail carriers. Take the holidays, for example.

In Schultz's early days as a mailman, a person could mail a Christmas card for three cents, and the envelope didn't even have to be sealed. With the ability to send dozens of cards for less than a dollar, people inundated the Post Office with Christmas cheer, though the carriers didn't always feel so cheerful about it. The Post Office would hire extra help to case mail during the holidays, a job that might last all day for just one route.

"Christmas was nuts," said Schultz, "I remember getting Christmas cards addressed to dogs and rabbits and canaries. Everybody sent Christmas cards to everybody."

Though perhaps more remarkable than delivering to animals was delivering animals themselves.

One day as Schultz was making his delivery rounds, he heard a sound he hadn't heard before—a subtle scratching from inside a package. He was carrying a box of turtles. A second reptilian package Schultz delivered came from Florida and housed a baby alligator.

Once, a nearby school ordered a large quantity of crickets for a science project. The crickets escaped and plagued the inside of the Lansing Post Office for hours until the vacuum was brought to arms.

"I remember three or four years after that, every once in a while you'd hear a cricket in the back of the bags chirping," Schultz said, "There's probably still a few crickets around that Post Office."

When delivering such oddities, the mail bags didn't stay with Schultz the entire day. He left the Post Office with about eight bags and a pushcart and made his way down the Ridge Road business district. As he finished Ridge, he stopped at a storage box along his route to pick up his next bag. The distance between storage boxes on a carrier's route was called a "relay." These boxes looked similar to the USPS boxes of today, though they didn't

have a slot for incoming mail. Some of these can still be seen around Lansing today, like the one on the corner of 178th and Oakley.

Schultz had nearly 500 stops on his route, which started on Ridge Road and stretched west to Burnham Avenue, south to Ann Street, and east to Sherman Street. During his time carrying, he told his kids that the average house on his route had six steps leading up to the porch, and there were about 430 houses that he



Aldo Sulli (seated) with his wife Cindy and their two sons, Dominic (far left) and Anthony. (Photo provided)

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delivered to. Assuming his estimates are correct, Schultz would have climbed and descended over 30 million steps throughout his three decades on the job.

#### 4. RAIN OR SHINE...OR DOGS

The work was made more difficult for both Schultz and Sulli when mother nature's schedule didn't align with the Post Office's. For years, the USPS has been synonymous with the popular mantra, "Neither snow nor rain nor heat nor gloom of night stays these couriers from the swift completion of their appointed rounds." Though by no means the official motto of the Postal Service, the phrase is inscribed on the James A. Farley Building in New York, which spans two city blocks and boasts the largest retail space of any post office in America.

When there's more than a foot of snow on the ground, however, the mantra is easier said than done.

One winter day, Schultz started his route on Ridge Road pushing his mail cart through an inch of snow. By the time he had finished his route, he looked down and was shocked to see the snow had risen to his knees. He walked in a quick circle to make sure he wasn't standing in a hole.

The next day, Schultz surveyed Ridge Road, a ghost town blanketed in feet of white. As he trudged along, delivering the little mail that had fought its way through the weather, he noticed Rispens Seed store (which moved to Beecher, IL, in 1999)

was open, the only business along Ridge that had braved the elements. He chuckled at the irony of a planting and gardening store being the only one open on a day when the frozen ground was covered in a layer of snow.

"Marv, you expecting business today?" asked Schultz as he entered.

"No, I came to shovel my roof out," he replied. Schultz delivered his mail and trudged on.

As the post office's system became more automated

and the time restraints on each carrier became more stringent, weather became an especially troublesome factor for mail carriers.

"Management treated every day like it was 75 and sunny," reflected Sulli. When he saw a forecast with a low wind chill, he could already feel his fingers growing numb. Though he bundled warmly for the weather, he was unable to leaf through the mail with gloves on. As a solution, he cut off the fingers in his gloves, leaving his fingers unprotected against the cold—the same chilling strategy Schultz had used years earlier.

Dealing with weather made Sulli a remarkably accurate amateur meteorologist. "He could tell me by looking at a radar, 'You've got one hour outside,'" recalled his wife Cindy, "and dang if he wasn't always right."

But it wasn't just the weather that gave Sulli and Schultz difficulty. Sulli once returned sheepishly from his route near a forest preserve with mail he was unable to deliver. In the line of the form asking the reason for the mail's undeliverability, he wrote simply, "impending deer attack." After facing down an intimidating deer, Sulli had decided the mail could wait till tomorrow.

It's not deer, though, that are the bane of a mail carrier's existence. It's dogs. If dogs are man's best friend, then that man is definitely not a mail carrier.

With a few exceptions, Sulli was generally able to use his mail bag and pepper spray to avoid getting bitten, though he estimates he was charged at least a dozen times.

"What people don't realize is the mailman is the only person that comes to your door six days a week and never comes in," Cindy said, "and that's why dogs bite them.... They're doing their job; they're protecting the house."

Apparently, dogs haven't changed since Schultz's day, when he estimated that a dog bit him roughly once a year—one of which left a scar on his leg that's visible to this day. Once, an unfriendly German Shepherd charged him from inside a house and tore through a screen in its effort to get to him. Luckily, the dog got caught halfway through the screen, giving Schultz time to scamper away.

Schultz made a few four-legged friends in his 30 years, however. One shaggy dog would keep him company for a couple blocks as he walked. Another, a Dachshund, lived on a corner property and would bark at Schultz every day as he walked

past. "He wouldn't bite me or nothing, he'd just bark like hell," he said. After a decade of this routine, Schultz turned the corner to find the dog was doing more wheezing than barking. "He was getting so old that he couldn't do it anymore.... He had to lie down," he recalled.

#### 5. THE LIFESTYLE

Sulli sat back and tried to enjoy his Sunday. He did his best to ignore the nagging feeling of dread that Monday would bring—the heaviest mail day of the week. He tried to focus on the positives of his off day, like being with his family and serving the community as the president of the Lansing Soccer Club, but by the time nine o'clock rolled around, he became severely anxious and difficult to talk to as he anticipated the burdens of the next week.

One temporary remedy Sulli found for this anxiety was vacation. The pay and benefits his stressful job offered gave him ample opportunity to travel with his family, though his Post Office instincts would sometimes kick in. On one family vacation to Las Vegas, Sulli couldn't help but follow a strict schedule, much like his daily routine carrying mail. "He said, 'we gotta be here, we gotta be there, let's go—we only have X amount of minutes to walk to the next pirate show,'" Cindy recalled.

Even during everyday interactions Sulli's mind would work on a precise timetable. "If you asked him, 'I have to go over here on [Highway] 30, how long will that take?' Most people's response would be, '15-20 minutes.' Aldo would tell you, '17 minutes,'" Cindy said.

Besides vacation, mail carriers get two days off work per week on a rotating basis, a schedule that has been in place for decades. When Sulli would receive a Monday off, he would receive Tuesday off the next week. Because the Post Office's week technically starts on Saturday, every six weeks carriers would get a long weekend. They would receive Friday off as the last day of the week, Saturday off as the first day of the next week, and Sunday off by default. To account for this, the Post Office assigned six mail carriers to every five routes, five carriers delivering to the same route every day and the sixth, the "swing-man," covering for whichever carrier is off—a role that Sulli held early in his career.

Years before, Schultz enjoyed the predictability of the long weekends that the Post Office offered him. Every six weeks he tried to plan ahead to make the most of his off time. But even though he valued his vacation, Schultz, also thought positively about his time on the job.

"I really enjoyed what I was doing; that's why it was difficult for me to retire," Schultz said, "I enjoyed visiting folks and stuff like that."

As a testament to his commitment, by the time Schultz retired, he had amassed around 3,000 hours of sick leave, the equivalent of nearly a year and a half of work. He was paid for these hours when he retired.

Even as early as the 1990s, however, Schultz noticed that things were starting to change in the Post Office.

"It was getting to be a chore," Schultz recalled, "It seems like as the years went on, [the USPS] started hiring some people that really didn't care anymore. They'd care about payday, and that was it—that type of attitude."

Feeling his age, Schultz reluctantly hung up his uniform on September 30 of 1995. About three years ago Sulli did the same, though perhaps not quite as reluctantly.

In the final stretch of Sulli's career, his multiple sclerosis was added to the list of challenges that faced him as he walked into work. Battling a disease that was damaging nerves throughout his body, he received some relief from Post Office management, who understood how difficult the job had become for him. Mostly working from a mail truck at that point, his condition

continued, page 15



Paul and Carol Schultz outside their Lansing home. (Photo: Josh Bootsma)

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# The Lansing Journal *journeys*

## Marine Corps Recruit Depot – San Diego

SUBMITTED BY DENNIS KRANC



The Lansing Journal was in Marine Corps Recruit Depot – San Diego on August 16, 2019, to welcome a new marine. Cody J. Kranc (center) posed proudly with his father Dennis T. Kranc (left) and grandfather Dennis J. Kranc (right). (Photo: Meg Kranc)

## Desayuno con El Primo Rafa

SUBMITTED FROM THE RADIO PROMOTION EVENT AT TAQUERIA LA SOGA



Radio personality El Primo Rafa was at Lansing's Taqueria La Soga (19267 Burnham Avenue) on August 22, hosting a backpack giveaway for local schoolchildren. He spent more than two hours interacting with fans, posing for photos, and doing announcements on Radio La Que Buena (FM105.1), which brought about 150 people to the event. Rafa also expressed appreciation for local media and graciously posed with an online copy of The Lansing Journal. (Photo: Melanie Jongsma)

## Block Party

SUBMITTED BY THE 3600 BLOCK OF MADISON STREET



From left: Nancy Chiaro, Sheri Sobol, and Kristi Chiaro caught up on Lansing's latest news at their neighborhood block party. The gathering gave neighbors on the 3600 block of Madison Street an opportunity to get to know each other—and they had so much fun, they have already tentatively scheduled next year's block party. (Photo: one of the neighbors)

Read the full story about the Madison Street block party in our August 17, 2019, article at [www.thelansingjournal.com](http://www.thelansingjournal.com).

## Alaskan Cruise

SUBMITTED BY SUSAN THOMPSON



As part of her Alaskan Cruise aboard the Norwegian Joy, Susan Thompson saw the Glacier Fjords "up close!!!"—and of course she took her Lansing Journal along. "Awesome to view," was her summary of this part of the excursion. Susan is the President of the Lansing Area Chamber Board and owner of Illiana Indoor Billboards, whose mission is "to link the local community with the local businesses through the power of Digital Media." (Photo: random fellow passenger)

## Orak Shriners Golf Classic

SUBMITTED BY JENNY POLLEY



From left: Pastor David Price, Karl Koch, Griffin Polley, and Grant Oppenhuus formed a foursome at the Orak Shriners Golf Classic at White Hawk Country Club in Crown Point, Indiana. Griffin Polley is a Shriners Patient Ambassador, so while his grandfather held The Lansing Journal, Griffin held the golf outing program, which sports his picture on the front. Griffin's Ambassador duties at the Oral Shriners Golf Classic will be good practice for serving as a Shriners Ambassador at the PGA tour in Las Vegas in October, as reported in an August 4, 2019, article at [www.thelansingjournal.com/news](http://www.thelansingjournal.com/news). (Photo: Jenny Polley, Griffin's mom)

## Europe

SUBMITTED BY KATHY GRZYWINSKI



Kathy and Larry Grzywinski of Lansing, Illinois, took The Lansing Journal to Europe this year, including Copenhagen, Denmark (top left), Stockholm, Sweden (top right), and San Sebastian, Spain (bottom). (Photos: Rob Grzywinski, son, who made his parents walk a minimum of 10,000 steps a day throughout the entire 17-day trip)

## Keep those Journals journeying!

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# Carriers, from page 13

worsened to the point where he could use only one arm to open mailboxes and deliver mail.

Both Sulli and Schultz retired at age 55.

## 6. RETIREMENT AND REFLECTION

Paul Schultz walked down Ridge Road and surveyed the businesses along it. Nearly sixty years after he made his first mail delivery along one of Lansing's most historic thoroughfares, he finds himself holding a microphone instead of pushing a mail cart. As the Village Historian walks, he explains to the 120 people listening the history of the businesses that line the storied street.

As he squints in the early evening sun, he sees more than the interested folks behind him do. He sees his friends driving by in a Studebaker. He sees Marv trying to get feet of snow off the roof of his feed store. He sees friendly waves from the dozens of business owners that have come and gone over the better part of a century. He sees the only town he's ever called home.

Schultz was born on Christmas day in a doctor's office on Ridge Road and he's never really left.

Perhaps it makes sense why such a man would choose to spend 30 years of his life traveling the sidewalks of Lansing. Is there a better way to invest in a community than to daily walk down its streets and talk to its people?

Perhaps, then, it also makes sense why Sulli, years later, would begin to dislike a job that sacrificed community in favor of productivity. Starting out, he enjoyed socializing with his postal customers and would come home with stories of meeting former Montreal Expo and White Sox coach Wallace Johnson and Chicago television reporter Harry Porterfield. These were displaced by stories about how stressful work was and how unreasonable the standards were that he was expected to meet. Even Schultz began to see this towards the end of his career, noticing that a shift toward more automated mail apparently also meant a shift toward a more automated mail carrier.

"Payday is what made it worth it," Sulli said, reflecting on years of carrying mail. His cars were nice, his kids

attended private school, he brought his family on plenty of vacations.

In a job that was inherently people-oriented (Sulli must have visited thousands of front porches in his years with the USPS), he was forced to think of his work as a means to a paycheck rather than a community-focused career. He thought of the neighborhoods he traversed in terms of minutes instead of people.

Schultz and Sulli both live in Lansing, separated by two miles and two decades. Their experiences as postal carriers were vastly different and when asked if they would do it all over again, Schultz said yes and Sulli, no.

But they were also quite similar. Both walked the streets of the towns where they grew up, both knew the joy of getting to know people along their routes, and both saw the unfortunate effects of a productivity model that sacrificed community in favor of efficiency. But they persevered, perhaps because the pay was good, but perhaps even more because they knew the work was meaningful. Serving one's community is important. For these two carriers, it was a career.

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# Ed Asner enjoys the crowd at Munster's Theatre at the Center

## And now he's ready for a break

BY MELANIE JONGSMA

MUNSTER, Ind. (August 25, 2019) – Ed Asner is looking forward to spending some time at home. After “being busy catching planes and trains and cars” to get from one performance to the next in cities across the country, he’s ready to sit still for a while.

He’s glad to finish this particular run on a high note. “This audience was quite rewarding,” Asner said of the 400 people gathered at Munster’s Theatre at the Center on August 25 to see his performance of *A Man and His Prostate*. People in the front rows eagerly waved to him even as he walked across the stage to take his seat, and their laughter throughout the show made it a fun experience for him as well as them. He interacted with people jovially from the stage and the audience responded with a standing ovation after the 80-minute show.

Asner appreciates the applause, but he also likes knowing his art can make a difference. *Prostate* in particular provides him an opportunity to educate as well as entertain, to be an activist as well as an actor. The show is a true story—though it’s Ed Weinberger’s story, not Ed Asner’s—of a bout with bladder stones and prostate surgery that saved Weinberger’s life. In telling it, Asner makes the serious subject of male health approachable.

He’s heard from people who have seen the show and then taken steps to do something about their health. Though it’s an uncomfortable subject for many men, Asner says, “A few have admitted to me that the show changed their life.” One of the startling facts Weinberger wrote into the script is that every 16 minutes a man dies of prostate cancer. If the show helps men be proactive rather than ignoring the issue, Asner will consider his busy schedule a worthwhile investment.

“He loves the shows,” says Asner’s daughter Liza, who handles booking for *Prostate* as well as another show he’s currently starring in, the political comedy *God Help Us!*

Being on stage in these smaller productions—*Prostate* is a one-man show and *God Help Us!* is a three-person performance—allows the

89-year-old Asner to continue plying his craft in a way that is most productive for him. Whereas television and film acting require makeup, wardrobe, and staying on set all day even for just one scene or one line, small-cast stage productions allow Asner to come in, do his part, and be done.

Events like Sunday’s performance of *A Man and his Prostate* and Saturday’s performance of Karen Carpenter hits, by Heidi Kettnering, are benefits for Theatre at the Center. Offered only a few times during the year, these are usually just one-day performances, and tickets sell out quickly. Sometimes, as in the case of Asner’s show, the Theatre offers a meet-and-greet session for an additional \$50. Patrons who purchased that option were allowed to stay after the performance and then gain access to the Center’s Board Room, where they met Asner one on one, exchanged pleasantries, requested autographs, and posed for photos. Asner seemed to enjoy the social hour as much as his fans did.

Back home in Los Angeles, Asner will have some time to recoup and perhaps return to the birdwatching he used to enjoy. In September he will start up the tour again. He’ll be in Evanston, Illinois, with *A Man and his Prostate* on September 8 and 9, and then in Rochester, New York, on September 19, 21, and 22 with *God Help Us!*

Theatre at the Center is hoping he will also return to Munster for another show.



Left: Ed Asner was his curmudgeonly self at the meet-and-greet following his show on August 25.

Above: Ed Asner (center) autographs an *Up* poster for TATC General Manager Richard Friedman (left) and his wife Darlene while another fan snaps a photo. Asner was the voice of Carl Fredricksen in the Pixar movie. (Photos: Melanie Jongsma)

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# American Legion Riders ride to raise funds

Proceeds will help veteran organizations and first responders

BY CARRIE STEINWEG

LANSING, Ill. (August 16, 2019) – The parking lot at American Legion Post 697 was filled Saturday morning, August 10, with motorcycles ready to head out for the American Legion Riders' 6th Annual Ride and Benefit. According to Legion Riders President Nick Grigutis, the proceeds from the event would go toward helping veteran organizations and first responders. "We do other good things in the community, but all the money raised today goes to that," he said. "We're happy with the turnout and looking forward to a fun-filled day."

Close to 100 riders were expected to take part in the event. At least 60 were ready to leave the American Legion post that morning, with more joining the ride along the way at one of the other stops of the day—Jack's in Schneider, Indiana; Sit N' Bull in Beecher, Illinois; and Bank Shots in Lynwood, Illinois. Following the ride, participants and supporters gathered back at the American Legion for food and drink, raffles, and a silent auction.

Motorcyclists from other organizations in the area showed up to support the efforts, including the Renegade Pigs, Eagle Riders, American Veteran Motorcycle Riders Association, and individual riders from other local posts. There were also riders coming from as far as Indianapolis to return the favor after several of Lansing's Legion Riders participated in a ride last month to benefit the Riley Children's Hospital in Indianapolis.

Bill Altgilbers, who serves as the American Legion



From left: Bill Altgilbers, Treasurer; Roger Shelton, Vice President; and Nick Grigutis, President, display a banner identifying their Legion Rider chapter information. (Photo: Carrie Steinweg)

Riders Treasurer, was happy to see how many people came out to participate. "It's a great cause and really helps out our community," he said. "We support organizations in Illinois and Indiana, and a lot of veterans are supporters."

Jim Bushor has been a rider at this benefit for five of the six years that the ride has taken place. "I'm just here help our veterans and to help support our community," he said.

A police escort was waiting to get the 90-mile ride started.

Grigutis gave a brief introduction before the Legion Riders Chaplain, Seamus McLaughlin, led the group in prayer. McLaughlin is a charter member of the organization and he also served as a past commander of American Legion Post 697. He's a U.S. Navy veteran who served in the Vietnam War.

Village Trustee Maureen Grady-Perovich was also there with her German Shepherd, Pas, for the send-off. She was outfitted in a leather vest given to her by the group in appreciation for her support. "Our Legion Riders are so supportive of the village and we're lucky to have them," she said.

Besides this yearly event, the organization also hosts other rides to

raise funds as well as presenting colors and setting up flag lines and memorial events and funerals. "We give donations to veterans and veteran organizations and do anything we can for our veterans," said McLaughlin. "We're not a riding club, but a non-profit through the American Legion, and we raise thousands each year for veterans and veteran homes."

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# Good clean fun

## Fox Pointe concert-goers enjoy and respect the venue

BY MELANIE JONGSMA

LANSING, Ill. (September 1, 2019) – Throughout the summer, Wednesday-night crowds at Fox Pointe typically divided into three groups—the pavilion people, the lawn chair people, and the people who want to dance—with the dance group overlapping the first two groups. On Wednesday, August 7, the Chicago-based Latin/R&B/Jazz/Rock/Soul band Latin Satin Soul had people out of their chairs dancing—in the lawn, under the pavilion, and along the stage.

The group played a free concert from 7:00–9:30pm as part of Lansing’s Wednesday-night concert series, and then they played an encore. Though weeknight events are scheduled to end at 9:30pm out of respect for the surrounding residential neighborhood, a buffer of 15 minutes can allow for one or two more songs if needed. August 7’s perfect weather and the community vibe made the encore an easy decision:

Following the concert, the crowd slowly dispersed, packing up not only lawn chairs and blankets, but also bottles, napkins, and other detritus from the food and beverages enjoyed throughout the evening. Public Works Director Gary Richardson says he has been amazed that this is typical behavior for Lansing residents and guests who visit Fox Pointe.

“There is nothing on the ground,” he said, standing on the south edge of the lawn while the band finished loading up their equipment. “Look at this! This is beautiful! People really have pride in this community.”

Even as he was making that observation, Richardson watched a guest carry an armful of beverage cans from his spot on the lawn all the way to the recycling bin at the edge of the property. “That’s what I’m talkin’ about,” said Richardson. “Now that’s community.”

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

Latin Satin Soul will return to the venue during Lansing’s 2019 Autumn Fest. They are scheduled to play on Day 2 of the Fest, at 7:30pm on Saturday, October 12.



Above: This Fox Pointe guest took the time to recycle his empties. Richardson says that is typical of people who spend time at the venue. When this story and photo were published online, Paula Garcia commented, “Great picture. That’s my husband cleaning up our area. Thank you for capturing the moment, I love it! Our first time at the venue, and it was absolutely a great time and great park.” Below: Latin Satin Soul will return to the venue during Lansing’s 2019 Autumn Fest, on Saturday, October 12. (Photos: Melanie Jongsma)



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**Apt. for rent: 1bdrm. 2nd floor.** Calumet City. Seniors welcome. \$800/month & \$800 security. 708-360-6120

**Hammond 2 bedroom apartment near South Shore.** Stove & refrigerator, \$700/month & \$700 deposit. Seniors welcome. 219-629-5357

**Two large bedroom apartment located in Calumet City.** All electric. \$875/mo. + credit check. Ready to move in second week of September. No pets. For more info. call 10 am-7 pm 708-868-2590

**For rent: Updated Lansing, 2bdrm. Apt.** Close to schools, shopping and parks. More info. Call John. 708-280-1773

## Pets

**Female German Shepherd pure breed.** 12 weeks, all shots, paid \$1,200, asking \$500. Family member passed away, needs good loving home. Call Jeanine 708-368-2855

## Lost and Found

Leather chair and love seat, very clean \$100 ea. Will listen to offers. 708-925-2379

## Wanted

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

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

**Wanted: Vintage carpenter mechanics tools, axes, advertising items,** padlocks, knives, magazines, radios, oil can signs, calendars, railroad items. Lee. 219-923-8669

Wanted: swing for my patio. 708-932-7339

Wanted: used carpeting 8 x 16, preferably dark patterned, must be reasonable! After 6 pm. 219-301-7145

Looking for a 6 or 8 foot folding banquet table, condition and color not important. 708-752-1921

Wanted: black or brown outside paint, 15 gallons or more. 219-801-0955

Wanted: Small upright no frost freezer, good condition. 708-360-3068

wanted radio/tv tubes Ham/cb radios 70s high-power stereos, tube type stereos tubes testers misc elec old radios no tvs, 708-536-8823

Wanted: Canning Jars. Mason, Ball & Kerr, all sizes, jelly, pints & quarts. 708-474-4964

Wanted: any nice hand painted furniture. 219-923-0458

## Autos and Vehicles

**For sale: IH Cub Cadet 127, 12HP hydrostatic drive Tractor** 42 inch mower and Craftsman 3x4 dump trailer. Original owner, well-maintained; used Craftsman front wheel drive rear bag mower, best offer. 708-672-3445

**For sale: 2002 Jeep Grand Cherokee,** Leather interior, sunroof, runs good, need work, 192k, \$2,800. 708-829-4646

**2007 Saturn Aura XR, one owner, 109k, \$3,995.** 1996 Ford Ranger, only 74k miles \$3,495. 1998 Honda Accord, \$2,495. 1995 Mercedes Benz S420, 114k, \$3,895. 708-474-0957



**Honda Accord 2007 4FWD,** 175,277 miles. Has a clean record. Awesome condition for the year. Well maintained, great offer, \$2,800. 708-215-1616

**1999 Trans Am. 5.7L (35) alum. LS-1 Corvette eng.,** 305 hp, auto trans, limited slip, 154,000 mi, black w/dk gray int., Fac. stock, \$8,000 obo. 708-646-1362

2015 Chevy Spark, Lemonade, \$5,987. Call Bob 855-949-6000

**For sale: 2001 Chevy Express Van** 8 passenger, leather. Exc. cond. \$4900. 708-339-4424

**For sale: 1993 Chevy Astro Van,** V6-140K miles. \$2800/obo. New tires/battery/CD-Radio/speakers chrome rims, remote/alarm. Removable cloth seats. Motivated seller. 708-612-2413

2014 Ford Focus, tuxedo black metallic, \$6,987. Call Bob 855-949-6000

2014 Dodge Grand Caravan, gray, \$8,987. Call Bob 855-949-6000

2017 Chevy Sonic, nightfall, gray, \$9,187. Call Bob 855-949-6000

2012 GMC Acadia Carbon Black Metallic \$13,987. Call Bob 855-949-6000

2018 Ford Fusion Hybrid SE Blue, \$14,987. Call Bob 855-949-6000

2017 Fiat 500L Nero Cinema Black Clearcoat \$14,987. Call Bob 855-949-6000

2016 Jeep Renegade Anvil \$16,987. Call Bob 855-949-6000

2018 Mitsubishi Outlander Rally Red metallic, \$18,487. Call Bob 855-949-6000

2018 Chevy Camaro Black \$59,987. Call Bob 855-949-6000

## Misc Items For Sale

**Sale. Sale. Sale. All new factory to you Furniture sale.** Mattresses: twin \$88, full \$98, queen \$138. Bunk beds, futons, day beds \$178. 5 pc dinette \$179. Sofa LV \$495. 4 pc. bdrm \$495. Lamps, rugs & more. EZ credit \$3,000, 90 days same as cash. Free layaway. 708-371-3737, [www.factorybeddingfurniture.com](http://www.factorybeddingfurniture.com) Like us on facebook

**For sale: Wheelchair ramp** 23ftx30in wide, expanded steel with galvanize railing, height adjustable. Like new condition. Paid \$3200, asking \$1400/obo. 708-744-2924



Beautiful Cabinet. Hammond. 54x78x16 Real wood. Shelves light up. Heavy 219-931-8171

**For sale: Cherrywood dining room set,** 6 chairs, 2 inserts. Exc. condition, padding for table included. \$400. 312-502-4004

**For sale: Saris 2 to 3 bike hitch** mount rack; Craftsman portable air tank, \$40; 1.5 ton new carjack \$65; Ryobi 40 volt weedwacker, \$45. Ask for Joe. 708-912-4603

For Sale: 2 matching (new) buffet lamps \$35 708-448-5672

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

Nordic Trac Pro exerciser, like new. 312-218-0893

Battery powered wheel chair, like new. 708-891-4798

Matching lime green love seat (60L) and sofa (84L) must see to appreciate! 708-448-5672

Wooden storage cabinets for garage or basement, \$20 ea; 80" high, 21" wide, 24" deep, \$20 ea. or 2 for \$30. 708-877-6157

Full size futon mattress cover (new) \$10. 708-481-6907

Two screen/storm doors (36x80-32x80) \$50.00, forty foot aluminum extension ladder \$150.00, washer & dryer \$250.00 each. 312-402-2067

Upright piano, hardly used, good cond. 708-596-5359

Ladies, small, medium, large clothes, \$2-up clean, like new some w/tags, capris, jeans, blouses, can be used for young girls. 708-394-3431

Galvanized box like small animal trap that catches alive no harm \$40. 219-730-3370

Brand new red swivel chair, \$75, perfect for bedroom. 708-360-3068

Early 1900s antique glass bubble picture frames (2 qty), exc. cond. 14x21 & 17x24 approx. Call Bonnie 708-895-0812

Kenmore stove and refrigerator, white, in great condition, \$100 ea., will listen to offers. 708-925-2379

Estate sale: furniture: dining room; sofa \$125; occasional chairs \$50 ea; wood tv stand \$50; tables \$20 ea; coffee table, leaded glass \$100; recliner. 708-717-6134

White tear drop store shelving, 54" high, 48" long with two 15", 17", 19", 22" shelves per unit with white peg board backing, \$20 a section. Bob 708-339-1708

All new tool shop 8 1/4 miter saw tool shop 5 speed drill press \$35; Black/ Decker power hand jigsaw/ saw 2 in 1, \$25. 708-474-9568

Never used (in wooden chest) Oneida Community stainless (service for 12, plus several serving pieces) must see. Will sacrifice all for only \$150. 219-617-8583

1950s vintage rollfast men's bicycle; new whitewall tires and tubes \$250 obo; brand new wood burning fireplace base, \$240 obo. 708-877-6387

Schwinn Air Dyne exercise bike, excellent condition, \$125. 708-821-4816

Aynsley antique china, 1 bowl, two 9" square plates, 10 round plates, 2 cups, very good condition, \$80. 708-877-6157

Dining room set: table, 6 chairs, china cabinet and hutch. Send me a cell and I'll send picture. 708-987-8641

I Phone 4S and I Phone 5, both working, no charger \$55. 219-730-3370

## NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF AUDIT REPORT OF THORNTON TOWNSHIP

Thornton Township hereby provides public notice that an audit of its funds for the period of March 1, 2018 through February 28, 2019 for General Fund, General Assistance Fund and Road & Bridge Fund has been made, and that a report of such audit dated August 26, 2019 has been filed with the County Clerk of Cook County, in accordance with 30 ILCS 15/0.01 et seq.

The full report of the audit is available for public inspection at 900 E. 162nd Street, South Holland, IL 60473 during regular business hours between 9am and 4pm, Monday through Friday, except for holidays.

# SUDOKU

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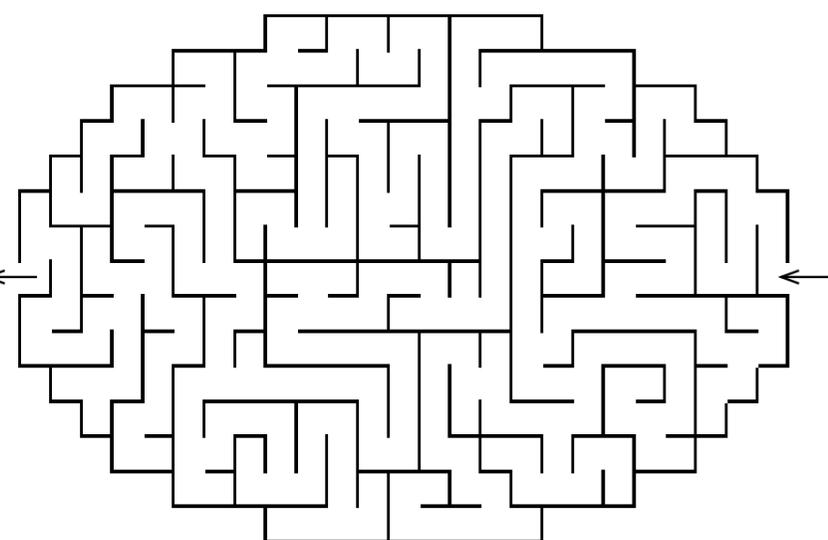
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### Insects

Ant	Cricket	Leafhopper	Scaleinsect
Antlion	Damselfly	Locust	Silverfish
Aphid	Dragonfly	Louse	Springtail
Assassinbug	Earwig	Mantis	Termite
Bee	Flea	Mayfly	Walkingstick
Beetle	Fly	Midge	Wasp
Boatman	Grasshopper	Mosquito	Waterskipper
Bristletail	Hornet	Moth	Weevil
Butterfly	Lacewing	Pondskater	
Cicada	Ladybug	Roach	

# SOLVE THE MAZE



# CROSSWORD

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### ACROSS

- Fancy or frilly
- Mop
- Concealed explosive devices
- Look amorously
- A very small amount
- Angry
- Fertilizer ingredient
- Hammer or saw, for example
- Keyboard instrument
- Found on some ocean beaches
- Social status
- Gossiper
- Tied
- Bark
- Riddle
- Wicked
- Approached
- Biblical first man
- Tantalize
- Rubber wheel
- Zodiacal twins
- Vikings
- Meadow or pasture
- Born
- Representative
- Drifts
- British Association of Film & Television Arts
- Listen in
- Expect
- Cain's brother
- Present (at a show)
- Forfeit
- Anagram of "Rose"
- Scallion
- Stringed instruments
- Achy
- Nature of being

### DOWN

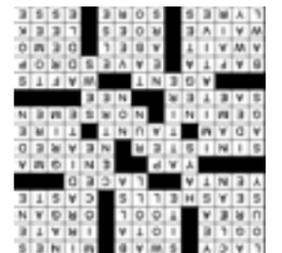
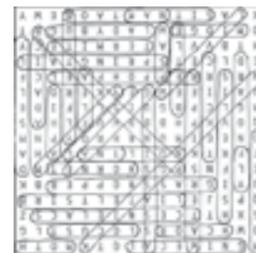
- Rotten
- Consent
- Not dirty
- Leavening agent
- Location
- Grows on sheep
- Coral island
- A strong lightweight wood
- An epoch dating back 20 million years
- Expose to radiation
- Bothers persistently
- French for "State"
- Western Samoan monetary unit
- Fodders
- Middle (British spelling)
- Clothing
- A leguminous plant
- Harshly sinister
- Being nothing more than specified
- City in Yemen
- Droops
- Concept
- What you're called
- Not genuine
- Hurry on foot
- French for "No"
- Cancel
- Stitches
- Approaches
- Forbidden
- Confuse
- Liberates
- Books
- Talked
- Cry loudly
- At a distant place
- Reasonable
- Swerve
- Otherwise

### A rolling stone gathers no moss

The original Latin proverb, *Saxum volutum non obducitur musco*, is attributed to Publilius Syrus (85 BC - 43 BC), who went on to define the meaning as "People who are always moving—with no roots in one place or another—avoid responsibilities and cares." Today the term is also used in the business world to suggest the importance of staying relevant to avoid stagnation.

### SOLUTIONS

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



Announcements are free and run in *The Shopper* each week. They are accepted by e-mail at [general@myshopper.biz](mailto:general@myshopper.biz), or at the front counter. Deadline is Friday at 4:00 p.m. for the following Thursday's edition. *The Shopper* reserves the right to edit all content.

# Cast announced for *The Pajama Game* at Theatre at the Center

## Show runs September 12–October 13

INFORMATION PROVIDED  
BY BIG SPLASH PR

MUNSTER, Ind. (August 28, 2019) – Theatre at the Center Artistic Director Linda Fortunato has cast Curtis Bannister as Sid, Elizabeth Telford as Babe, Cynthia Carter as Mabel, Kelly Felthous as Gladys, Jason Grimm as Hines, Dan Klarer as Prez, Rick Rapp as Pop, and Steve Silver as Mr. Hasler in the musical comedy romance *The Pajama Game*. Rounding out the cast of talented performers are Matt Casey, Andrew MacNaughton, Maggie Malaney, Thomas Ortiz, Sierra Schnack, Aalon Smith, and swings Shannon McEldowney and Shea Pender. Fortunato will direct, Christopher Chase Carter is the choreographer, and William Underwood is the music director. Previews begin September 12 with an Opening Night on September 15 and a continued run through October 13.

*The Pajama Game* is a musical based on the 1953 novel *7½ Cents* by Richard Bissell. The musical opened on Broadway in 1954 with music and lyrics by Richard Adler and Jerry Ross and book by George Abbott and Richard Bissell. The Tony Award winner also inspired the 1957 film starring Doris Day with songs such as "Steam Heat," "Hey There," and "Hernando's Hide-away." The musical comedy takes place in the Sleep-Tite pajama factory where workers demand a 7½ cent raise, with both sides unwilling to budge. When the head of the union grievance committee meets her new supervisor, love changes the game.

### THE CAST

Curtis Bannister (Sid Sorokin), making his debut at Theatre at the Center (TATC), is described by Time-Out magazine as "radiating with slowly simmering energy." Bannister is known for his television role as firefighter Reimers on NBC's *Chicago Fire*. He has also been seen as the Celebrant in Bernstein's *Mass*, directed by Kevin Newbury and filmed for PBS's Great Performances. Previous 2019 stage performances include his debut with the St. Petersburg Opera as Paul in *Kiss Me, Kate*.

Elizabeth Telford (Babe) returns to TATC where she last appeared as Miss Grace Farrell in *Annie Warbucks*. Other Chicagoland credits include work with the Marriott Theatre, Music Theater Works, Chicago Shakespeare Theater, Provision Theater, Porchlight Music Theatre, BoHo Theatre, The Music Theatre Company, and Northbrook Theatre. Regionally, she has performed with the Old Globe Theatre, Milwaukee Repertory Theatre, Skylight Music Theatre, First Stage Theatre, and the Utah Shakespeare Festival.

Cynthia F. Carter (Mabel) is making her debut at TATC. Previous works include *Mahalia Jackson Moving through the Light and Woman of Soul*—both at Black Ensemble Theater—*The Nativity* at Congo Square Theater Company, *Tangled* at ETA Creative Arts Theater, and *Crowns* at Chicago State University.

Kelly Felthous (Gladys) returns to TATC after making her debut earlier this year as Ruby in *Dames at Sea*. Chicago credits include Zaneeta in *The Music Man* at The Goodman Theatre, Roxie Hart in *Chicago The Musical* (Jeff nomination), Audrey in *Little Shop of Horrors* at Drury Lane, Sally Bowles in *Cabaret* at the Paramount Theatre, and Gertrude in *Seussical* at the Marriott. New

York credits include the original companies of *Trip of Love* and *Max and Ruby*. National tours include *Wicked* and *Grease*.

Jason Grimm (Hines) is making his debut at TATC. His Chicago credits include *The Suspects in Murder for Two* (Jeff Award), *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying*, *Singin' in the Rain* at the Marriott Theatre, and *Ebenezer Scrooge in Q Brothers Christmas Carol* at Chicago Shakespeare Theatre.

Rick Rapp (Pop) returns to TATC in his fourth production, having appeared as the Judge in *Miracle on 34th Street*, Joseph in *A Wonderful Life*, and Senator Evergreen in *Nice Work If You Can Get It*. He recently appeared as J.B. Biggley in *How to Succeed in Business* at Music Theatre Works and *Father in All That He Was* at Pride Films and Plays. Rick is also the voice of Mr. Monopoly for online and casino gaming.

### THE STAFF

Linda Fortunato is in her fourth season as Theatre at the Center's Artistic Director, where her credits include directing and choreographing *Dames at Sea*, *Miracle on 34th Street: The Musical*, *Ghost: The Musical*, *Steel Magnolias*, *Big River*, *The Tin Woman*, *Cabaret*, *Annie Warbucks*, and *A Christmas Story*. Fortunato also served as choreographer for *Spamalot*, *Big Fish*, *A Christmas Carol: The Musical*, *Guys and Dolls*, *Crazy for You*, and *Fiddler on the Roof*. She has been nominated for five Joseph Jefferson Awards for her work as a choreographer and director and received both the Equity and Non-Equity Jeff Awards for Outstanding Choreography in the 2013-2014 season, garnering Theatre at the Center's first award for her choreography of *42nd Street*.

Choreographer Christopher Chase Carter has traveled extensively performing, directing, and choreographing for national, regional and local theaters. His choreography credits include *A Chorus Line* and *Gypsy* at Porchlight Theatre, *Five Guys Named Moe* at Court Theatre, *Hair* and *Little Shop of Horrors* at Mercury Theater, and *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* at Paramount Theater. His



Elizabeth Telford (left) as Babe and Curtis Bannister as Sid in Theatre at the Center's production of *The Pajama Game* in Munster, Indiana. (Photo: Guy Rhodes)

performance credits at TATC include *The Wiz* and *42nd Street*.

The creative team for *The Pajama Game* includes Scenic Designer Jack Magaw, Lighting Designer Guy Rhodes, Sound Designer David Samba, Costume Designer Brenda Winstead, Prop Designer Wendy Huber, and Wig Designer Kevin Barthel. Stage manager is Jessica Banaszak. Linda Fortunato is teamed with TATC General Manager Richard Friedman and Ann Davis, TATC Head of Production.

### THE PERFORMANCES

Performances are scheduled for 2:00pm Wednesdays and Thursdays; 7:30pm Fridays; 3:00pm and 7:30pm Saturdays; and 2:30pm on Sundays.

Individual ticket prices range from \$42–\$46. To purchase individual tickets, call the Box Office at 219-836-3255. Group discounts are available for groups of 11 or more. Student tickets are \$20, and gift certificates are also available. For more information, visit [www.TheatreAtTheCenter.com](http://www.TheatreAtTheCenter.com).

## FALL FESTIVAL at Lansing Christian School Faith. Family. Learning

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 27  
Doors open at 5:00pm

Olie Bollen sales  
begin at 2:00pm!



LANSING CHRISTIAN SCHOOL  
3660 Randolph St, Lansing IL 60438

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# Basketball tournament builds community through competition

## Riverdale Park District wins 2019 championship

BY ERNST LAMOTHE,  
THORNTON TOWNSHIP COMMUNICATION MANAGER

SOUTH HOLLAND, Ill. (September 1, 2019) – The third annual Taste of Thornton Township basketball tournament crowned the Riverdale Park District team as champions on Friday, August 23. This year the tournament was bigger in several ways. Eight teams, including a team from Lansing, participated in the double elimination tournament, the largest number ever. And a crowd of more than 150 filled the South Suburban College bleachers. The large crowd watching the early games elevated the enthusiasm and energy in the building.

The tournament combines police, firefighters, department employees, and teenagers on the same team for the pride of their town. This year the Riverdale Police and Fire Department came in second, while the Harvey Police Department came in third.

Typically, communities have police officers and kids playing against each other in a basketball tournament; however, Thornton Township officials decided the alternative made more sense.

“The way you make a community stronger is working together, loving each other, and knowing each other,” said Frank M. Zuccarelli, Thornton Township Supervisor. “We shouldn’t have kids and police officers on opposite teams. We should have them side by side helping lift each other up. This [tournament] is something we are going to do every year, and it is going to be bigger and better.”

The five-on-five basketball tournament, which was held at South Suburban College, is one of many Thornton Township programs that focus on police officers and teenagers learning more about each other. By working together, laughing together, huddling to plan strategy, and encouraging and supporting one another throughout the day, lasting relationships are built.

“We pride ourselves on creating new and exciting programs that both entertain and bring together our residents,” added Jerry Jones, Thornton Township Board Member. “This basketball tournament is just another example of that.”



Above: Police officers and teens on the Lansing team huddle to discuss an upcoming play.

Right: South Suburban College hosted the tournament. Competition between teams was fierce, but friendly. (Photos provided)





**L.A.C.E.**  
LANSING ASSOCIATION FOR COMMUNITY EVENTS

7<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL  
LANSING  
**AUTUMN FEST**



**AT FOX POINTE**  
(18138 Henry Street, Lansing IL)

**Friday, October 11, 4pm–11pm**  
FOOD • BEER • FREE ENTERTAINMENT

**Saturday, October 12, 10am–11pm**  
\* Kids Zone 12pm–5pm \*

*An annual favorite—* COPPER MUGGERS PANCAKE BREAKFAST • MILITARY TRIBUTE  
ENHANCED MARKETPLACE • FOOD • BEER • FREE ENTERTAINMENT

**Sunday, October 13, 11am–5pm**  
\* Kids Zone 12pm–5pm \*

ENHANCED MARKETPLACE • FOOD • BEER • FREE ENTERTAINMENT



THE VILLAGE OF LANSING, ILL.  
HISTORIC FORD HANGAR  
INCORPORATED IN 1911

Free admission!  
More details coming, but mark your calendars now!

Each year Autumn Fest can offer free admission and entertainment because of generous donations from local sponsors. THIS YEAR’S SPONSORS ARE:

**GOLD:** Lansing Public Library • Homewood Disposal Service • Napleton River Oaks Chrysler, Jeep, Dodge

**SILVER:** Calumet Bakery • Michael A. Wood, DPM PC

**BRONZE:** Calumet City Plumbing • First National Bank of Illinois • First Savings Bank of Hegewisch  
Hayes Beer • Raffin Construction • Walter W. Schultz Insurance Agency, Inc.

# LOOP Bicycle Ride registration still open

Fall ride will launch from Fox Pointe Saturday, September 21, 5:00pm (Early-bird discount available through September 13)

BY MELANIE JONGSMA

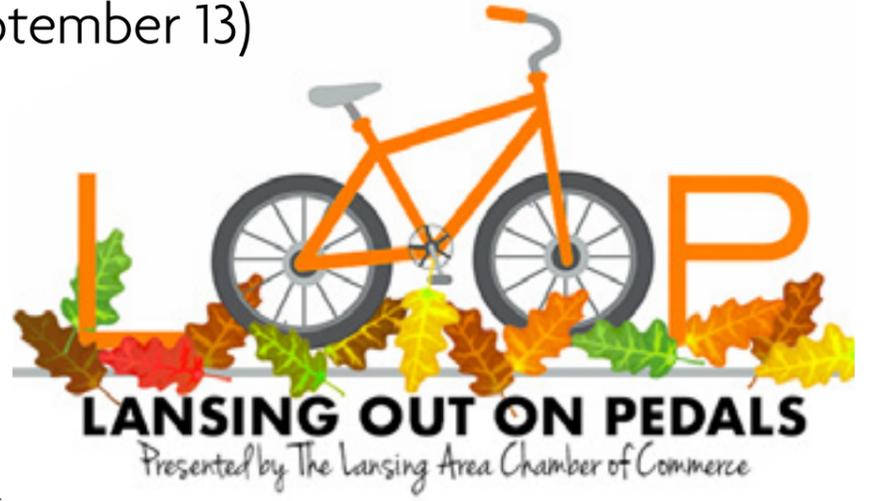
LANSING, Ill. (September 1, 2019) – Each annual LOOP Bicycle Ride offers a combination of tradition and innovation, and this year’s—the seventh annual—will switch things up again. Regular participants will first notice the timing is different: rather than scheduling the ride in July, the Lansing Chamber decided to try a fall ride this year. Chamber Director Amy Todd is hopeful that a fall ride will avoid the summer thunderstorms and oppressive heat that have plagued the summer rides in recent years.

The launch location has also been updated, moving slightly north, from the Clock Tower to Fox Pointe. This will provide a larger staging area where the Chamber can hand out LOOP backpacks, t-shirts, and goodies to participants who registered on time.

What hasn’t changed this year is the nature of the ride itself. A family-friendly event, LOOP gives

people an opportunity to bike about 15 miles through Lansing’s streets, forest preserves, and the runway at Lansing Municipal Airport, shepherded by Lansing police and guided by signs held by LOOP volunteers. The ride is divided into two phases—Phase 1 is about 12 miles, and it loops back to Fox Pointe, where riders can rest up and enjoy a snack. Once darkness falls, riders enjoy the final 3 miles by heading to the Lansing Municipal Airport, where the runway lights will be lit for LOOP participants.

Registration is required so Chamber staff can order enough backpacks and t-shirts. Bikers who register by September 13 will automatically receive



the early-bird discount price of \$30. Registrations that come in after September 13 will be charged the regular price of \$40. Online registration is available at [chamberoflansing.com](http://chamberoflansing.com).

If you’d like to volunteer for LOOP 2019, call the Chamber office at 708-474-4170.

# Park district orders new signs for 7 Lansing parks

BY MELANIE JONGSMA

LANSING, Ill. (August 25, 2019) – At the August 19 meeting of the Lan-Oak Park District Board, nine new signs were approved for seven Lansing parks:

- Lan-Oak Park (180th and Arcadia)
- Mildred Burt Nature Center (2550 178th Street, north of the parking lot)
- Oakley Park (184th and Oakley Avenue)
- Potts Park (172nd, west of Oakwood Avenue)
- Rotary Park (193rd and Sherman Street)
- Van Laten Park (183rd and Holland Drive)
- Winterhoff Park (3299 180th Street)

Lan-Oak Park and Rotary Park will each receive two new signs.



New signage (shown above) may help increase awareness of the Mildred Burt Nature Center, just north of the Eisenhower Center parking lot. (Photo: Melanie Jongsma)

The signs will be ordered from Bright Idea Shops, who has created other signage for Lansing parks. Using the same vendor will help ensure consistency in colors.



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## VAN DRUNEN HEATING

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**BOZO'S** 2513 Ridge Road Lansing, IL 60438 (708) 895-8515 | 1205 Sheffield Ave Dyer, IN 46311 (219) 322-6564

**We Are MORE Than Just Hot Dogs!**

<b>BOZO'S</b> HOT DOGS ONLY <b>\$2.40</b>	<b>BOZO'S</b> <b>10% OFF</b> ENTIRE ORDER	<b>BOZO'S</b> VANILLA SOFT SERVE CONE OR CUP <b>\$1</b>
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Limit 20. Does not include Jumbo Dogs. Not valid with other offers or UberEats orders. Available at the Lansing & Dyer locations only. Expires 10-31-2019. No copies or screenshot images accepted.

Maximum \$10 discount. Not valid with other offers, combo meals, or UberEats orders. Available at Lansing & Dyer locations only. Expires 10-31-2019. No copies or screenshot images accepted.

(AVAILABLE AT LANSING ONLY) NO LIMIT during same visit. Not valid with other offers or UberEats orders. No copies or screenshot images accepted. Expires 10-31-2019.



# Lansing Public Library would like to thank our **Follow the Yellow Brick Road Scavenger Hunt Sponsors!**

**Emerald Sponsor: Mayor Patty Eidam**

## Yellow Brick Sponsors:

Crescent Jewelers, Fashionette, First National Bank of Illinois, Holiday Inn – Lansing, JJ Kelley’s, Joe La Bella State Farm Insurance, Lan-Oak Park District, Lansing Area Chamber of Commerce, The Lansing Journal, Lansing Sport Shop, Lynnne Que’s Airport Bar & Grill, Mancino’s Pizza & Grinders, Minuteman Press, Ridge Animal Clinic, Sandler’s Shoes, Stephano’s Pizzeria, Tiny’s Flowers, Troost Coffee & Tea, and Water’s Edge Gift, Garden & Pond Center.

Learn about available  
**Census 2020 Jobs**  
and apply onsite!  
**Thursday,**  
**September 12 from**  
**6:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m.**



Learn **Why You Should  
Care About Census 2020**  
on **Tuesday, October 22 from**  
**6:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m.**

We are dedicated to getting  
everybody counted since the  
Census is important to local funding, planning for hospitals and  
schools, State & Federal representation, and access to resources at  
the local level. Accurate counts, including children are very  
important! **Get ready for Census Day on April 1, 2020!**

**National Voter Registration Day is  
Tuesday, September 24, 2019**

Are you registered? Stop by 9 a.m.-7:30 p.m. and  
register to vote! Thank you to The League of Women  
Voters for volunteering their assistance.



Lansing Public Library  
2750 Indiana Avenue  
Lansing, IL 60438  
708-474-2447  
[www.lansingpl.org](http://www.lansingpl.org)

## September is National Library Card Month! Do you have a library card?

Libraries aren’t what they used to be. They’re so much more! Visit the  
library, and you’ll see the limitless opportunities that await you. Here are  
some ways the Lansing Public Library can enrich your life:

Borrow a Museum or Attraction Pass

Create your digital library card, keep track of due dates,  
holds and upcoming events with the *SWAN Libraries*  
mobile app.

Enjoy a concert or experience the quiet room

Make copies, send a fax, or scan documents

Learn a language with Mango

Earn your High School Diploma with COHS

Use a computer, free Wi-Fi or borrow a Hot Spot

Develop early literacy at Preschool story hour

Join a book discussion or group

Apply for jobs online

Free delivery for the homebound

Download an eBook, eMagazine, eAudiobook, or stream movies!

Quality online resources to grow your business, find a job and more!

Take a technology class or build your skills with our tutorials

Attend a lecture or find a new hobby

Research your family tree or learn about Lansing’s history

Check out books, magazines, graphic novels, DVDs, video games, audiobooks,  
music, and LARGE PRINT BOOKS.

**Visit [www.lansingpl.org](http://www.lansingpl.org) for information about  
upcoming events and library services!**

