



## Lansing to celebrate Our Lady of Guadalupe at Spanish Masses

Saturday, December 7: St. Ann Catholic Church • Thursday, December 12: Three Roosters Grocery

BY JENNIFER PALLAY AND MELANIE JONGSMA

LANSING, Ill. (December 1, 2019) – A bilingual Mass to celebrate Our Lady of Guadalupe, the patron saint of Mexico, will take place at 7:00pm, December 7, at St. Ann Church, 3010 Ridge Road in Lansing. Father Mark Kalema of St. Ann, and Father Len Dubi, retired pastor of St. Victor Church in Calumet City, will co-celebrate the Mass in Spanish and English.

In addition, a Spanish Mass to celebrate Our Lady of Guadalupe will take place at 9:00am, December 12, at Alberto's Beauty Salon, 3220 E 171st Street in Lansing, in the plaza anchored by Three Roosters Grocery. A priest will conduct that service entirely in Spanish, and El Mariachi Imperial Azteca will play the Biblical songs for the mass.

## Lansing-opoly board games arrive in time for Christmas

Limited quantities available



Lansing-opoly is an actual, playable board game that has been customized with Lansing references and photos. Selling the game is a way for the Lansing Area Chamber to raise funds for programs that build community in Lansing. (Photo: Melanie Jongsma)

BY MELANIE JONGSMA

LANSING, Ill. (December 5, 2019) – Just in time for holiday gift-giving, cases of Lansing-opoly board games arrived at the Lansing Area Chamber of Commerce. Chamber Director Amy Todd and Chamber Board President Susan Thompson posted the good news on Facebook along with information about how to pick up and/or purchase a copy.

Lansing residents who had pre-ordered a game by purchasing a \$20 voucher were invited to bring their voucher to the Chamber office at 18155 Roy Street and exchange it for a game. The Chamber office is regularly open from 9:00am–3:00pm, Monday through Friday, though stoppers-by are encouraged to phone first (708-474-4170) to make sure staff are onsite.

Todd has also added evening Lansing-opoly hours at the Chamber office on Wednesday, December 11, from 5:00–7:00pm.

Lansing-opoly is a customized version of a well-known board game, using Lansing businesses, street names, and landmarks. Local organizations purchased space on the board from the Chamber this summer, and those purchases covered the cost of producing the game. Instead of Boardwalk, Indiana Avenue, and Water Works, Lansing-opoly players will land on locations such as Calumet Bakery, Minuteman Press, and Lan-Oak Park. The Community Chest cards have been replaced by Thornton Township cards, and Chance cards are indicated as "Breaking news" from The Lansing Journal. Thirty-five spaces were available at

See "Lansing-opoly," page 8

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This Lansing man  
won an Emmy!  
Story on page 15



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Residential



Lansing-opoly vouchers can now be redeemed at the Chamber office. (Photo: Melanie Jongsma)



Our Lady of Guadalupe Masses celebrate the mother of God appearing to a man named Juan Diego at Tepeyac, a hill northwest of Mexico City. The ceremonies often involve roses. (Photo provided)

appearing to a man named Juan Diego at Tepeyac, a hill northwest of Mexico City. "An incredible list of

miracles, cures, and interventions are attributed to Our Lady of Guadalupe. Each year an estimated 10 million people visit her Basilica, making her Mexico City home the most popular Marian shrine in the world, and the most visited Catholic church in the world after Saint Peter's Basilica in the Vatican," according to the Catholic News Agency. In 2017 a priest from Immaculate Conception Parish in Chicago led the Our Lady of Guadalupe Mass at Alberto's Beauty Salon. (Photo: Melanie Jongsma)

Marian shrine in the world, and the most visited Catholic church in the world after Saint Peter's Basilica in the Vatican," according to the Catholic News Agency.

Because of this appearance of Our Lady of Guadalupe, an evangelization of Mexico began, Arteaga said. "She said, 'Here are my roses, show them to the cardinals and let them know I exist and I am here.'

That's what it was back then, and that's what we are doing now with this Mass."

### CELEBRATING IN LANSING

Arteaga co-chairs the St. Ann event with her mom, Carmen Padilla, and a committee of about 10 women. The committee typically hosts the Mass earlier than December 12 because it is difficult to find a Spanish-speaking priest on the actual feast day.

The Mass begins with a procession including a statue of Our Lady of Guadalupe decorated with roses followed by the children in attendance carrying roses. The Mass at St. Ann also includes a children's mariachi band from East Chicago, Indiana, and dancers who perform in honor of Mary.

Though both celebrations—at St. Ann as well as at Three Roosters—are particularly meaningful for Hispanics, hospitality is extended to all of Lansing. The Lady of Guadalupe is said to represent the poor

See "Guadalupe," page 8

# Complete Count Committee working to get complete count in Lansing

Lansing Public Library and Barber Rick's are two hubs of information

BY JENNIFER PALLAY

LANSING, Ill. (December 4, 2019) — When census time comes in 2020, Lansing will be ready with resources.

Lansing's Complete Count Committee includes representatives from throughout the village working together to spread the word about the importance of the 2020 Census. The group's goal is to have 100 percent participation, according to its leader Debbie Albrecht.

Albrecht, who is Director of the Lansing Public Library, said the library will provide resources to those who need help completing the census online.

"It is cost effective and requires less manpower to do it this way," Albrecht said. "But it also presents some challenges, as not everyone has internet in their homes. This can be especially true in hard-to-count areas."

The library will be dedicating computers and staff to assist people with filling out the census. Albrecht said, "It is required that we complete the census. But most importantly, it is important to you as an individual that you help your town and region get the funds and representation that they deserve."

## GETTING THE WORD OUT

The Complete Count Committee (CCC) is looking for ways to get the word out to all Lansing residents that every person—whether a newborn or senior citizen—counts. The committee plans to use advertising, social media platforms, and grassroots efforts to do just that.

Religious leaders, school administrators, nonprofit organizations, and businesses are needed to make these efforts successful, Albrecht said.

Rick Pierce, owner of Barber Rick's in Lansing (17851 Torrence Avenue), is a member of the Complete Count Committee.

"Everybody needs to be counted so that we are sure of getting the proper funding for our town," Pierce said.

He said the CCC has recently started to spread the word about the census through advertising and being involved at upcoming events throughout the village. Pierce is doing his part in spreading the word at his business. He recently put up signs advertising the



The Lansing Public Library (2750 Indiana Avenue) will have computers and trained staff to help people complete Census 2020 online. (Photo: Melanie Jongsma)



Barber Rick Pierce (standing) is a member of the Complete Count Committee. He recognizes that census data is important to local businesses like his. Barber Rick's is located at 17851 Torrence Avenue. (Photo: Melanie Jongsma)

Census 2020 hiring event that was held at the library on December

3. The event was a way for people to learn more about the five different kinds of temporary census jobs available—and to apply on the spot.

"A lot of the community comes to my shop to get their hair cut, so that will be my niche," Pierce said.

## CORRECTING MISINFORMATION

"One of the most powerful ways to get the message out is person-to-person," Albrecht said. "There is some misinformation out there. An important fact is that census information is secure and by law cannot be shared with anyone else, including other agencies in the government. There will be no citizenship question on the census. We are going to impress on everyone we speak with that they are a powerful voice for helping us toward a complete count by sharing what they hear with friends and family."

The census is important to everyone in Lansing, Albrecht said. "It determines the amount of funds that are returned to our little village for many things such as police, fire, schools, and many other things where

- Census results help determine how billions of dollars in federal funding flow into states and communities each year.
- Census results help determine how many seats in Congress each state gets.
- Residents are encouraged to take the census online. Resources will be available at Lansing Public Library, 2750 Indiana Avenue.
- The Census Bureau does not share information with the U.S. government.
- The 2020 Census is only 10 questions.
- Lansing loses \$1,400 for every person who is not counted—and that amount is lost per person, per year until the next census in 2030.

money is distributed based on per capita numbers. It also is used to determine representation in the U.S. House of Representatives."

Illinois expects to lose one seat due to loss of population over the last 10 years and a correct census count can help ensure another seat is not lost, she said.

# THE LANSING JOURNAL

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# Lansing Historical Society showcases Christmas Around the World

BY JENNIFER PALLAY

LANSING, Ill. (December 2, 2019) – The lower level of the Lansing Public Library is looking a lot like Christmas thanks to the many volunteers who put together the Festival of Lights and Christmas Around the World.

At the December 2 grand opening of this year's exhibit the TF South Choir sang on the library stage to open the Festival of Lights. The festivities then moved to the lower level of the library, where guests were invited to view the exhibits.

There is no charge to view the trees and learn about the cultures they represent.

## FROM 9 TO 35

This Lansing tradition began in 1981 with only 9 trees, and it currently features about 35 displays representing more than two dozen countries. It has also grown to more than just trees—traditional holiday recipes from different countries are displayed as well as a collection of nativity scenes from around the world.

"We keep adding to it every year," said Barb Dust, curator of the Lansing Historical Society Museum and the Christmas exhibit. This year's additions include a display of vintage toys donated by the descendants of Christian Schultz, one of Lansing's founding fathers. "It's neat to think these are antique toys that Santa actually brought to Lansing in the early 1900s," Dust said.

New among the trees will be one representing India. Other trees represent Poland, Germany, Africa, and Hanukkah, as well as Native Americans, LACE's Autumn Fest, and the Village of Lansing to name a few.

## HISTORY COMBINED WITH CHRISTMAS

Dust has been curator of this exhibit for the past five to six years. She tries to represent Lansing's diversity and involve members of various cultures in displaying and decorating their own trees. A retired Nathan Hale Elementary School teacher, she uses her classroom experience to make the exhibit educational and informative.



Germany



Kwanzaa



Holland



Croatia



Hanukkah



Hungary

"It is Lansing history combined with Christmas. It's a lot of fun," Dust said. "It's beautiful. It helps gets people in the Christmas spirit, and it's a little bit different every year. It helps you realize how you are part of the same world celebrating, even if it's not your religion—people join in the holiday feeling and celebrate with each other."

Dust said the German tree is one of her favorites.

"It's beautiful. It takes more than a day to put the tinsel on it. And it has the legend of the spider web and the pickle ornament," she said. The Iceland tree is another favorite because it reminds her of a trip to Iceland she took with her husband.

"We discovered they did not dare cut down a tree because little grows in Iceland. They always made a scrawny tree out of driftwood. We have a tree like that. It includes yule lads (which are like gnomes). They come out every night for the 12 nights before Christmas and play a trick."

The Norway tree features hand painted ornaments and a traditional costume from deceased resident Kali Morlock, whose father was from Norway.

"The costume is something she wore as a child," Dust said.

## COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Grace Bazylewski decorates the Polish tree, which follows a tradition of hanging homemade ornaments made of paper, beads, eggshells and other arty craft pieces collected throughout the year.

"Traditionally, in Poland, Advent was the time to create new ornaments for the tree," she said. "I follow traditional patterns and add a personalized touch. I have a collection of books on traditional folklore and traditions as source material."

The Polish exhibit also includes dolls from Bazylewski's mom's collection representing regional ethnic costumes from a variety of regions in Poland.

Bazylewski feels a connection to her ethnic ancestry

by participating in the festival and said it is also an opportunity to learn and celebrate the traditions of other cultures.

"I am following a tradition of my mom who was part of the dress crew for the Museum of Science and Industry Christmas Around the World Polish Christmas tree in the 1950s and 1960s. This year I got the opportunity to help dress that tree too."

Dust said the Lansing exhibit is a community project done by volunteers from the Lansing Historical Society and beyond, making it a great destination for this holiday season. She encourages school groups, Scouts, and senior citizens to make plans to visit the exhibit, which is wheelchair accessible and free.



Early America



Lithuania

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December 2 through January 6

### HOURS

Mondays and Tuesdays: 6–8:00pm

Wednesdays and Thursdays: 3–5:00pm

Saturdays: 10:00am–1:00pm

And by appointment

### LOCATION

Lansing Public Library

Lower Level

2750 Indiana Avenue

Lansing, Illinois

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**THE 2019 LANSING SANTA HOUSE SCHEDULE:**

Days	Month	Time
Wednesdays	December 4, 11, 18	6:00–8:00pm
Fridays	December 6, 13, 20	6:00–8:00pm
Saturdays	December 7, 14	1:00–3:00pm

For more information, call 708-895-7208.

# Increased volunteerism keeps Meals on Wheels rolling

BY KATIE ARVIA

LANSING, Ill. (December 3, 2019) – For over 20 years, the Lansing Meals on Wheels program has been providing low-cost meals to seniors throughout the village. The food is typically delivered every Tuesday and Thursday morning, with a few exceptions around major holidays such as Thanksgiving or Christmas. Over 40 Lansing residents receive this service from Meals on Wheels.

Recently, however, Lansing Meals on Wheels was in trouble. With several key people retiring or stepping down from the organization, the program was running so low on volunteers that it was at risk of being shut down.

"Basically, all the articles you read about us closing down—that was the truth," said Denise Cox, who handles communications and scheduling for Lansing Meals on Wheels.

Despite the major setbacks, Cox said she and the other volunteers hoped to keep the program going: "A lot of people were praying because we did not want to end [the program]. We were going to end on December 19."

It seems that those prayers have been answered; after word got out that Lansing Meals on Wheels needed more volunteers to continue the program, more people than ever stepped up to the plate.

"For once, I have a full quantity of people [who want to volunteer]," Cox said. "I had a retired police officer call me today, and he wants to be a driver." She also credits the village's quarterly newsletter, Looking at Lansing, with helping spread the word.

Lansing Meals on Wheels serves seniors between 10:30am and noon, depending on where they are located on the routes, while volunteer shifts typically are from 8:00am-noon, which Cox said makes it difficult to find volunteers. "It's very difficult to get a lot of people that are home during the day," she said.

## CHURCHES AND COMMUNITY

Lansing Meals on Wheel is a not-for-profit organization that is partially funded by the First United Methodist Church. The church also allows the program to use their kitchen.

"We use the Methodist church as our home base," Cox said. "They've been generous about their kitchen for years. It started as a mission, out of that church, and now it's grown to incorporate a lot of different people from a lot of different churches."

Various churches in town take up collections for Lansing Meals on Wheels, and the annual roundball tournament, played by students from grade schools throughout Lansing, raises money for both Lansing Meals on Wheels and the food pantry.

"If we didn't have the key people step up, we would have disbursed the funds that we had back to the organizations and there would've been a lot of [affected] people," Cox explained.

For those who can afford it, each meal costs \$4, but Cox said some seniors qualify for scholarships. "There's a lot of people in their 80s and 90s that really don't have much of a pension," Cox explained. The program is also funded by monetary donations received from residents of Lansing and beyond.

## THE MEALS AND THE WHEELS

Meals usually consist of an entrée that may be served with a side such as noodles, potatoes, stuffing, rice, or vegetables. Dessert, bread/dinner roll, and a side salad are included. Cox said that many recipients are able to make two meals out of each delivery,

thanks to the generous portions.

Volunteers not only donate their time; they also donate their cars and gas to use for deliveries. The program coordinators and cooks typically work twice per month. There is usually a dedicated Tuesday crew and Thursday crew. Cox even said that a group of 50-60 people do all the baking for Lansing Meals on Wheels. "It's a pretty big operation actually!" Cox said.

## RUNNING AT FULL SPEED

Although the Lansing Meals on Wheels program has found an adequate number of volunteers, Cox said she still encourages people who are interested in lending a hand to reach out.

"We can be short a volunteer here and there," Cox said, citing vacations, familial obligations, illnesses, and bad weather as factors in volunteer availability. "I'm not going to turn anybody down! I can always take them."

For those interested in helping out the program but are unable to donate time, Cox said that monetary donations are best, as they plan menus in advance and have dedicated shoppers who purchase all necessary food items.

For now, the program is back up and running at full speed. Cox said she appreciates the volunteers

and everything that they do for the program.

"It's just two meals a week, but they count on that. And they count on the friendly interaction of the [volunteers]," Cox said. "We're hoping to keep going."

People interested in volunteering, or people in need of assistance from the Lansing Meals on Wheels program, can contact Denise Cox at 708-895-0388.



From left: Elaine Siersema, Mike Winters, Deb Redendez, and Mary O'Brien have volunteered for many years, preparing meals in the kitchen at First United Methodist Church for Lansing's Meals on Wheels program. (Photo courtesy of Denise Cox)

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# OBITUARIES

## CRANE

A funeral service for Stanley C. Crane was held Tuesday, December 3, 2019, at Smits, DeYoung-Vroegh Funeral Home in South Holland, IL with Rev. Richard Zekveld officiating.

Mr. Crane was born January 11, 1927, and passed away on November 25, 2019. Husband of the late Wilhelmina Crane (nee Dykema). Father of Steven (Nancy) Crane, Janice (Robert) Miller, William Crane, and Joseph Crane. Grandfather of 10; great-grandfather of 10. Brother of the late John and late George Kuklewicz.

Interment was at Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery, Elwood, IL. Arrangements were entrusted to Smits, DeYoung-Vroegh Funeral Home, South Holland, IL.



### CP CRAWFORD

AUGUST 25, 1907 – NOVEMBER 23, 2019

CP Crawford of Lansing, Illinois, originally from Jackson, Mississippi, passed away on Saturday, November 23, 2019.

He was born to John and Mattie Crawford on August 25, 1907. His mother died when he was an infant, and he knew her only from stories told by his family. Named after a traveling Southern preacher, CP was his actual name, not his initials.

CP's immediate family included three older brothers and two older sisters. All siblings were separated after their mother died and were raised by aunts and uncles. CP was not allowed to attend school, so around age 4 he started working in the fields picking cotton, plowing corn, and manning the gardens. Around the age of 13, he got his first job working at a cafe washing dishes. He worked at Southland Oil Refinery for a while, then went on to work at Illinois Central Railroad, which brought him to Chicago.

CP was married three times and had six foster children, but never had any biological children. Prior to moving to Tri-State Nursing and Rehabilitation Center (2500 175th Street, Lansing, Illinois) in 2012, CP had been living alone.

In 2015, TF South High School awarded him an honorary high school diploma.

As a Lansing resident over the age of 100, CP was visited by Mayor Patty Eisdam and other Village officials three times—to celebrate his 110th, 111th, and, this year, 112th birthday. At his 112th celebration he mentioned that he was a White Sox fan but had never seen a game at Guaranteed Rate Field, and arrangements were made with the White Sox organization to honor him at a game. CP was chauffeured to the September 12 game in a limo, greeted by Hall-of-Famer Harold Baines, taken to the Guaranteed Rate Club for birthday cake, recognized on the scoreboard, and allowed to enjoy the game. When a nearby fan caught a foul ball, he passed it back to CP, who smiled and shook his head.

"I've been around and I have met some wonderful people," said CP at the game. "I'm happy to be here."

CP Crawford was well known for his simple secret to long life: "Mind your own business."

He died in Lansing, Illinois, on No-

vember 23, 2019, at the age of 112 years, 90 days.

Funeral arrangements were handled by Gatling's Chapel (1200 E 162nd Street, South Holland, Illinois). Visitation was held from 2:00–7:00pm, Saturday, November 30. The funeral was held at Gatling's at 3:00pm on Sunday, December 1.

## CROW

A funeral service for Violet M. Crow (nee Franson) was held Sunday, December 1, 2019, at Smits Funeral Home in Dyer, IN.

Mrs. Crow was born March 8, 1929, and passed away November 29, 2019. Mother of Mark (Monica) Crow, Sandra (John) Roe, Scott Crow, and Nanci (Steve) Nydam. Grandmother of 5; great-grandmother of 2. Sister of Dorothy Pentel.

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



## EDITH M. KIEDAISCH

JANUARY 1, 1935 – NOVEMBER 24, 2019

Edith M. (Edie) Kiedaisch (nee Storbeck), age 84 of Munster, IN, formerly of Lansing, IL, passed away on Sunday, November 24, 2019, surrounded by her loving family.

She is survived by: children: Kathy (William) Hasse of Munster, IN, and John (Dawn) Kiedaisch of Draper, UT; grandchildren: Kimberly (Connor) O'Halloran, Billy Hasse, Kyle and Tara Kiedaisch; great-grandson: Landon O'Halloran; nieces and nephews; and special caregiver and friend Pamela Mendoza. Edie was a "New Year's Baby," born January 1, 1935, to the late Edna and Martin Storbeck in Chicago Heights, IL. On June 9, 1956, she married the love of her life, Ronald Kiedaisch, who preceded her in death in 2009. She was also preceded in death by her sister Eileen (late Ralph) Neitzel and brother Clifford Storbeck.

Edith was a devoted and loving wife, mother, and Nana. Her grandchildren were the center of her world, and she loved attending all of their school activities and spending quality time with them. Edie enjoyed playing cards, golfing, traveling, family get-togethers, and hosting parties. She had an eye for interior design and fashion. Edie was fun and had an infectious laugh and a great sense of humor. She was a loyal friend and had a generous spirit.

Edie was an active member of the community. She was Village Clerk of Lansing, Secretary at Wentworth Junior High School, member of St. John's Lutheran Church, active parent volunteer at St. John's Lutheran School, and a part of many organizations, including Lady Lions, American Field Service, and Junior Woman's Club. Edie was loved and will be deeply missed.

Funeral services for Edith were held on Wednesday, December 4, 2019, at 10:00am, at St. John Ev. Lutheran Church, 18100 Wentworth Ave, Lansing, Illinois, with Pastor John Richy officiating. A short visitation was held from 9:00am until time of service. Edith was laid to rest at St. Paulus Cemetery in Beecher, IL.

Friends visited with the family on Tuesday, December 3, 2019, at the

Schroeder-Lauer Funeral Home, 3227 Ridge Road, Lansing, Illinois, from 3:00 to 7:00pm.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Edie's name to Harbor Light Hospice or Hospice of the Calumet Area.

## KOCH

A funeral service for Shirley M. Koch (nee Oedzes) was held Wednesday, December 4, 2019, at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in South Holland, IL, with Rev. Michael Udoekong officiating.

Mrs. Koch was born February 8, 1931, and passed away December 1, 2019. Wife of the late Karl William "Bill" Koch. Mother of Ted (Chris) Koch, Karla (Jim) Mitchell, and the late Jacquelyn Shilling. Grandmother of 7; great-grandmother of 14. Sister of the late Florence (late Bill) Guldeman, late John (late Charlotte) Oedzes, and the late William (late Angie) Oedzes.

Interment was at Oakland Memory Lanes, Dolton, IL. Arrangements were entrusted to Smits, DeYoung-Vroegh Funeral Home, South Holland, IL.

## LAMONT

A memorial service for Michaeleen A. Lamont (nee Conner) will be held Saturday, December 7, 2019, at Smits Funeral Home in Dyer, IN.

Mrs. Lamont was born June 15, 1947, and passed away November 21, 2019. Wife of the late Roger Lamont. Mother of Kim (Stuart) Vanderhei, Michael (Kelly) Lamont and Robert (Arline) Lamont. Grandmother of 7. Sister of Daniel (Nancy) Conner, Timothy (Christine) Conner, and Patrick (Grace) Conner.

Arrangements are entrusted to Smits Funeral Home, Dyer, IN.



## ROBERT "BOB" WARREN WEST

NOVEMBER 4, 1942–NOVEMBER 12, 2019

Robert Warren West, known to friends as "Bob," passed away at the age of 77 Tuesday, November 12, 2019, surrounded by loved ones. He left this world peacefully.

Bob was preceded in death by his mother Martha and Father Warren. He is survived by his loving wife Jan and his four daughters Kelly West (Jodie), Wendy Rodriguez (Dave), Natalie Bolognino (Steve), and Valerie Basile (Jason). Bob will be lovingly remembered by his seven grandchildren: Jillian, Justin, Noah, Ryan, Stephen, Danielle, and Michael. He will be fondly remembered by his sister Cynthia West Radcliffe, along with the families of his nephew and niece.

A Celebration of Life for Bob was held on Sunday, November 24, 2019, at the Schroeder Lauer Funeral Home, 3227 Ridge Road, Lansing, Illinois, from 3:00 to 7:00pm. Funeral services were held on Monday, November 25, 2019, with closing prayers beginning at 9:30am at the funeral home, then processing to St. Ann Catholic Church, 3010 Ridge Rd, Lansing, Illinois, for a 10:00am Mass of Christian Burial. Interment was private.

Bob lived his entire life in Lansing, Illinois, where he found his three passions: his family, his political career and his Harley. In his youth Bob worked side by side with his father until he took over the family business, becoming the owner of Lansing TV and Video. He spent the next several years serving the community of Lansing as a member of the Lansing Jay-

cees, Lansing Lions Club, and Knights of Columbus. As his dedication to his town grew, Bob served on the Lansing Zoning Board, joined the board of Lansing Trustees, and culminated his love for Lansing serving as Mayor (1993-2001). Following his political career, Bob worked for Cook County as a Tax Analyst.

Bob always did his best to be honest and true. He always believed if you were going to do a job you should do it right. Bob was filled with good times and always seemed to play it cool. His friends and family will forever remember him giving the thumbs up while sharing two simple words to live by: "Keep Smilin."

The Lansing Journal runs full obituaries with photos in our daily online news ([thelansingjournal.com/news](http://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 the upcoming monthly print edition. Interested families may contact The Lansing Journal directly, or ask your funeral home to do so.

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### WORSHIP SERVICES

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

# Patti Leach Youth Center hosts 'Friendsgiving' dinner

BY JENNIFER YOS

LANSING, Ill. (November 27, 2019) – Members of the Patti Leach Youth Center gathered on the evening of Friday, November 22, to host Friendsgiving, a Thanksgiving-themed dinner shared among youth members, their families, youth center staff, and supporting Lansing community members.

The Friendsgiving event included a catered Thanksgiving dinner with youth members greeting and serving guests, contributing to the after-dinner dessert table, and providing live entertainment. The youth center members also expressed their thanksgiving on the leaves of a Thanksgiving "spirit tree."

Reflecting on her role as the Youth Center Director, Aneisha Titsworth shared her own thanksgiving: "I am definitely thankful for this position, I am thankful for every single youth

that's been in and out of this building, I am thankful for the village, all of the Trustees...for giving me this opportunity to go on this journey with the kids. I definitely hope that each day the kids come here, they get something special, and leave a little bit different." Titsworth took on the position of Youth Center Director in May of 2019.

The Youth Center mission is "to provide opportunities for Lansing youth in Grades 6–12 to socialize in a fun, safe, and positive environment." Membership is open to all Lansing residents in Grades 6–12. To obtain a membership ID, one must be accompanied by a parent, sign a code of conduct agreement, and purchase a \$10 annual photo ID card.

The Patti Leach Youth Center is located at 18123 Burnham Avenue. Hours of operation are 3:30–8:00pm during the school year.

Youth from the Patti Leach Youth Center enjoyed a catered Friendsgiving meal supplemented by desserts they had prepared themselves. (Photo: Jennifer Yos)



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# Lansing resident named to Southland Development Authority

## Kristi DeLaurentiis and 15 other members set to catalyze growth in the south suburbs

INFORMATION PROVIDED BY SOUTH SUBURBAN MAYORS AND MANAGERS ASSOCIATION

EAST HAZEL CREST, Ill. (November 12, 2019) – The Southland Development Authority, a new vehicle designed to grow the economy in the south suburbs, will launch Wednesday, November 13. The Authority will promote the large-scale investments needed to propel the southland forward. The launch event will be held at Thornton Distilling Co., 400 East Margaret Street in Thornton, Illinois, from 5:00-7:00pm.

The Board of Directors of the Authority consists of 16 business and community leaders, including Lansing's Kristi DeLaurentiis, who is executive director of the South Suburban Mayors and Managers Association. Named director in early 2017, DeLaurentiis leads a team delivering technical assistance and joint services to 45 municipalities representing a population of nearly 700,000 in southern Cook and eastern Will Counties. DeLaurentiis and her fellow Authority Board members will be introduced at Wednesday's launch event.

### OVERCOMING STRONG HEADWINDS

The Southland Development Authority (SDA) is a next-generation economic development initiative. It is the result of work done by the South Suburban Economic Growth Initiative (SSEGI), a community-based group of leaders who have been supported by Cook County, the South Suburban Mayors and Managers Association (SSMMA), and other civic and philanthropic partners.

"Chicago's Southland is an area rich with many positive assets but needs the energy and long-term commitment of a Development Authority to overcome many strong headwinds," stated Cook County President Toni Preckwinkle. "We have worked closely



Kristi DeLaurentiis

with the business and philanthropic communities, residents, and elected officials to create this innovative approach to growing the economy."

The launch of this new Development Authority is big news not just for the south suburbs, but for all of Chicagoland—the Southland is an undiscovered market with enormous assets and development investment opportunities. The SDA will be a lead partner with other devel-

opers, investors, and stakeholders in jump-starting economic growth for the entire region.

### A NEW APPROACH

The SDA is modeled after several new organizations that have emerged across the country over the past few years. It will be the first of its kind in Illinois. This new approach to economic development provides new sources of capital and financial tools needed to support effective management and implementation of new property investments in the region. These new models are broader in scope, more comprehensive, and built on cross sector partnerships.

Three examples of highly successful development authorities are: Brooklyn Navy Yards, the Philadelphia Industrial Development Corporation, and the Menomonee Valley Partnership (Wisconsin).

### FINANCIALS

The SDA itself is a nonprofit organization. Its strength, however, will be based on its formal

working relationships with the South Suburban Land Bank and Development Authority (SSLBDA) and with a financial entity. The SSLBDA is an intergovernmental entity created by local governments in the Southland. It has been successful in addressing abandoned property among its 26 member suburbs. It can assemble vacant properties, abate back taxes, and partner with the SDA to serve as a predevelopment for the regions. The finance entity will assemble finance tools that have gone underused in the Southland due to fragmentation, capacity constraints and complexity of the instruments. These include bonding authority, tax-advantaged investments, enterprise zones and other forms of place-based incentives.

Like other Development Authorities around the country, the SDA is designed to be financially self supporting within a few years. Startup financial support has been contributed by Cook County, the MacArthur Foundation, the Chicago Community Trust, the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO), the Elizabeth Morse Charitable Trust, and the Elizabeth Morse Genius Charitable Trust.

"We needed to do something different," stated Carter Sterling, President of Sterling Lumber and one of the founding co-chairs of the leadership group that created the Development Authority. "Old methods of dealing with economic growth in the South Suburbs were not working anymore."

"As an elected official, I have seen, first-hand, the enormous challenges facing businesses and residents of the Chicago Southland," stated Vernard Alsberry Jr., Mayor of the Village of Hazel Crest. "We need an approach that allows us to cross historical fragmentation and local competition then move forward, together, through coordinated, well managed investments."

## Lansing-opoly, continued from page 1

a range of prices, and they sold out within two weeks.

Hundreds of vouchers were sold once the Lansing-opoly concept was introduced, and now that the actual game is available, interest has spiked again. Residents who didn't pre-order and don't have a voucher can purchase a game for \$25.00. The Chamber accepts cash or checks.

According to Todd, this is a limited-time opportunity. Planning and designing the game was a lengthy, detailed process, and storing cases of games is unwieldy in the Chamber office, so there are no plans to produce more copies of Lansing-opoly. "Once they are gone, they are gone," says Todd.

And Todd encourages people who already purchased a game voucher this summer to pick up their copy of Lansing-opoly by the end of the year.

The Lansing Area Chamber of Commerce is located at 18155 Roy Street in Lansing, Illinois.



Above: Chamber Director Amy Todd (left) and Chamber Board President Susan Thompson announced the arrival of Lansing-opoly in November. People who purchased vouchers this summer are encouraged to redeem them before the end of December.

Above right: Custom tokens were available from the game maker—for a high price, so Lansing's version of the game includes standard plastic game pieces.



Right: The game cards include references to Lansing events and places, and the money features the iconic face of Gayety's James Papageorge. (Photos: Melanie Jongsma)

## Guadalupe, continued from page 1

and marginalized, and Mexican-American hospitality is famous for making people feel welcome.

After the St. Ann Mass, attendees are invited to the school hall for a free meal, beverages, and basket raffles, all made possible through donations from Hispanic businesses in the area. There is no charge to attend the meal but a free will offering will be taken.

After the Mass at Alberto's,

attendees are welcome to stay for posole, tacos, Mexican coffee, and sweet breads, all donated by Three Roosters owners Ernesto and Ricardo Acevedo.

"It's an important day in the community," explains Daisy Herrera, manager at Three Roosters.

"The door is open to everybody," says Arteaga. "Come celebrate with us in her honor."



Above: With food provided by Three Roosters Grocery, the community shares a meal together following the Mass at Alberto's Beauty Salon. Below: El Mariachi Imperial Azteca will again accompany the Mass and the meal. (Photos: Melanie Jongsma, 2018)





## LPD determines recent shooting 'does not appear to be a random event'

Residents with tips urged to call 708-895-7150

INFORMATION PROVIDED BY THE LANSING POLICE DEPARTMENT

LANSING, Ill. (November 26, 2019) – On November 24, 2019, at approximately 7:20 p.m., the Lansing Police Department received several calls for shots fired in the parking lot of 2142 175th street.

As officers responded to 2142 175th street, the Lansing Police Department received a call from the victims who fled the scene and pulled into the American Sales parking lot. Officers then located two adult male victims who sustained gunshot wounds to their bodies. Both subjects were treated by Lansing Paramedics and transported to area hospitals. One of the victims was transported to Munster Community Hospital where he was treated for non-life threatening injuries and released. The second victim was transported to Franciscan Health Hammond where he succumbed to his injuries.

The Lansing Police Department's Criminal Investigations Division, along with the South Suburban Major Crimes Task Force, is investigating the incident. The investigation has revealed that this does not appear to be a random event. The victims met with the offender in the parking lot at 2142 175th Street. The offender then attempted to rob the victim at gunpoint, and shots were fired. The victim, who has been identified as Terrence Welch, age 35 of Lansing, was struck in the back. The Lake County Coroner's office has ruled his death a homicide.

Anyone with information concerning this incident is asked to contact the Lansing Police Department's non-emergency number at 708-895-7150.



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## Lansing paramedics awarded St. Michael the Archangel pins

Franciscan Alliance recognizes "hard work and impressive skill" of LFD



Deputy Fire Chief Bill Stubitsch (far left) read a letter from the Franciscan Alliance honoring Lansing firefighters and paramedics. Paul Steinweg, Aaron Jadernak, Jim Perreault, Trevor Banske, Marty Burns, and Jordan Moraga were in attendance at the Village Board meeting to receive the honor. (Photo: Melanie Jongsma)

BY MELANIE JONGSMA

LANSING, Ill. (November 19, 2019) – As one of the first orders of business at tonight's Village Board meeting, Mayor Patty Eidam invited Deputy Fire Chief Bill Stubitsch to describe to the Board and the public the life-extending measures his paramedics took on two recent occasions.

Stubitsch called to the front Paul Steinweg, Aaron Jadernak, Jim Perreault, Trevor Banske, Marty Burns, and Jordan Moraga, who were part of the crews on September 5 and September 23 who provided onsite emergency care that allowed two patients to arrive safely to a local hospital, where they could be stabilized while their families were alerted and gathered. Stubitsch read letters from Franciscan Alliance EMS Coordinator Matthew Eddy, who wrote, "[These events are examples] of the hard work and impressive skill often displayed by the officers of the Lansing Fire Department." Others mentioned in the letters but not in attendance at the Board meeting were Robert Karpel, Morgan Jordan, Kevin Lapointe, and Todd Kulacz.

Eddy's correspondence continued, "On behalf of Franciscan Alliance, I would like to commend these firefighter/paramedics and present them with a St. Michael the Archangel pin. As he is our protector and the patron saint of EMS providers, may this pin be a constant reminder of the lives they protect every day."

While Chief Stubitsch handed the pins to the firefighter/paramedics, the Village Board and members of the audience rose to give them a standing ovation.



St. Michael the Archangel is the patron saint of EMS providers. (Photo: Melanie Jongsma)

## LFD urges Lansing to 'Keep the Wreath Red'

BY MELANIE JONGSMA

LANSING, Ill. (November 28, 2019) - A post on the Lansing Fire Department Facebook page introduces people to a new meaning for a traditional Christmas decoration. "If you are driving by our fire station you may notice the wreaths on display," reads the photo description. "These wreaths are to help raise fire safety awareness. The wreath will start with all red bulbs. For each residential fire that causes damage due to holiday decorations, we will change one bulb to white." The public awareness campaign started on Thanksgiving and will run through January 2, 2020.



(Photo: Lansing Fire Department)

The fire department also offers the following safety tips for the holiday season:

- Never leave burning candles unattended.
- Space heaters should be away from objects and turned off when leaving that area.
- Be mindful of the food you are cooking, especially with young children around.
- Real Christmas trees need to be watered!
- Drive safely, and always wear your seatbelt.

The Facebook post continues: "With your help, the Lansing Professional Fire-fighters will be able to 'Keep the Wreath Red'! We thank everyone in advance for doing their part in this campaign! Happy Holidays."

# New dog grooming business opens on Ridge Road

Village officials attend ribbon-cutting at Dal Santo's Doggie StyleZ



As friends, family, and Lansing village officials look on, owner Samantha Dal Santo cuts the ribbon to open dog grooming business Dal Santo's Doggie StyleZ at 3234 Ridge Road. From left: Giuliano Dal Santo, Janice Dal Santo, Angelina Dal Santo, Kailee Oliver, owner Lance Dal Santo, Emma English, groomer Marie English, Tracy Brennan, Mayor Patty Eidam, Village Administrator Dan Podgorski, Chamber of Commerce President Susan Thompson, Deputy Fire Chief Bill Stubitsch, Fire Chief Chad Kooyenga, and Police Chief Dennis Murrin. (Photo: Tish Yos)

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Don't miss these Friends of Lansing Library Book Sales!

Saturday, December 14 from 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

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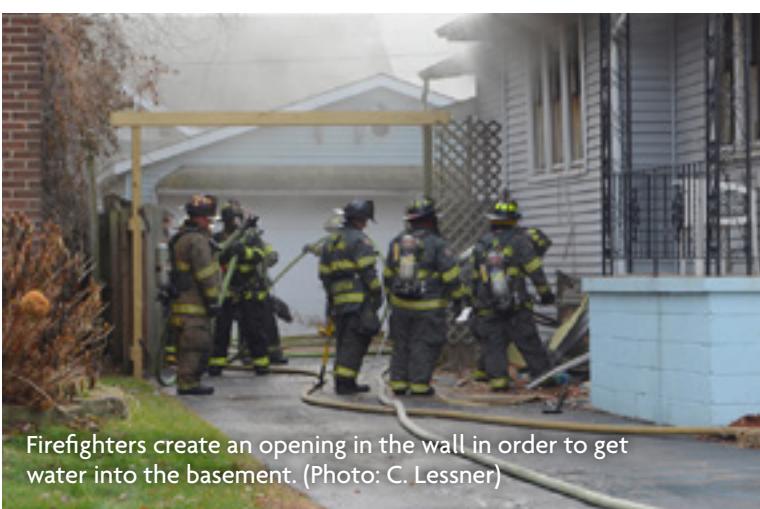
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## Community responds to pre-Thanksgiving house fire on Ann Street

BY MELANIE JONGSMA

LANSING, Ill. (November 26, 2019) - Around 1:15pm on Tuesday, November 26, Clem Lessner noticed a house fire in progress a couple of blocks from his house. He grabbed his camera and followed the smoke to the scene.

"I took about 40 photos in the next hour or so," Lessner said, and he emailed a few examples to The Lansing Journal.

Firefighters told Lessner the flames had been extinguished before he arrived, but there were still hot spots inside producing heavy smoke that was pouring from the structure.

Lansing was joined by Munster, Dolton, Glenwood, and South Holland in fighting the blaze and helping the victims. Lessner counted at least five fire trucks, three ambulances, two "command unit" SUVs, and six or more police and fire cars.

The Lansing community responded to the need by sharing photos of the destruction on social media and asking for donations to help the four adults and two children whose home had been devastated.

Troost Coffee and Tea (18155 Roy Street) responded immediately by offering to serve as a drop-off location for donations

Information about clothing sizes and other drop-off locations can be requested by emailing [williamsfamilyfirefund@gmail.com](mailto:williamsfamilyfirefund@gmail.com).

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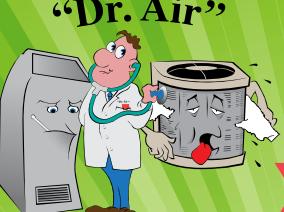


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# Lansing's HRC evaluates Year 1 and hopes for measurable progress moving forward

BY JOSH BOOTSMA

LANSING, Ill. (November 30, 2019) - In August of 2017, a community meeting was held to address police and community relations in Lansing. This meeting was a response to an incident involving a white off-duty police officer and a black teenager that occurred in June 2017. Forming a Human Relations Commission was one of many actions recommended at the meeting, and it was an action that Mayor Patty Eidam promised to address immediately, in keeping with the platform she had campaigned on prior to taking office.

On September 18, 2018 Mayor Eidam introduced the members of her newly-formed Lansing Human Relations Commission, ending a long process of planning, interviewing, and decision-making by the Village of

Lansing. About a month later, the Commission met for the first time at the Lansing Police Department to establish its mission and goals, and to receive training on intercultural communication. On December 20 of last year, the Commission held its first meeting at the Lansing Public Library, where it has met nearly every third Thursday of the month since.

As Lansing arrives at the one-year anniversary of the Human Relations Commission (HRC), it is worthwhile to look back on the inaugural year of the highly-anticipated Commission and observe what it has accomplished, what challenges it has encountered, and what the plans are for its future.



At the August 2017 Community Meeting, Mayor Eidam (standing) promised to start a Human Relations Commission immediately and implied that she already had people in mind to appoint to that Commission. (Photo: Matthew Splant)



At the September 18, 2018 Board Meeting, Mayor Eidam introduced the HRC. (Photo: Josh Bootsma)

## MISSION AND GOALS

In its first meeting, the HRC shared its mission, which is "to promote inclusion to the Village administration on community-related issues. The Commission is responsible for designing and recommending innovative programs to enhance community involvement among all Lansing entities in order to increase cultural competency and improve intergroup relations."

The Commission also has three goals:

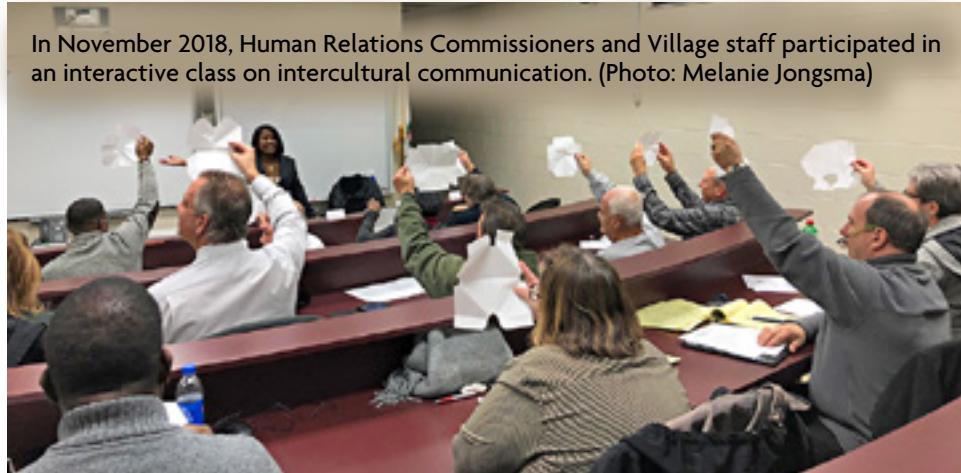
1. Strive to unite all community entities and build a mutual understanding and respect for diverse cultures
2. Strive to be a catalyst in developing civic pride among all Lansing residents and foster personal equity
3. Strive to communicate through channels and methods that advance accessibility and solicit involvement from all Lansing entities.

This mission and these goals were not established by Commissioners, but

given to the HRC to uphold and abide by.

## ACCOMPLISHMENTS

In general, the HRC has made a point to become a familiar presence in Lansing throughout the last year. In late spring they decided on gray polo shirts with the Village logo to identify themselves as HRC Commissioners at Lansing events. They



In November 2018, Human Relations Commissioners and Village staff participated in an interactive class on intercultural communication. (Photo: Melanie Jongsma)



At a December 2018 meeting, Human Relations Commissioners Michael Bolz, Regina Titsworth, and Bobb Wright discuss ideas. (Photo: Melanie Jongsma)

walked the parade route at the Good Neighbor Day Parade and handed out Frisbees. They surveyed residents during one of the Cruise Nights this summer, asking questions about the HRC and its mission in Lansing. They set up a table at the Lansing Area Chamber's Business Expo and introduced themselves to members of the business community.

At their monthly meetings, a number of ideas have been discussed about events and programs the HRC could host, but no specific plans were made throughout 2019.

## CHALLENGES

Lansing's Human Relations Commissioners have learned the procedural and governmental trappings that come with being a public body. For example, because the HRC is a public entity, it abides by Robert's Rules of Order, requiring agendas, motions, seconds, and other specific means by which to accomplish tasks. For a Commission tasked with enhancing cultural relations, this style of meeting can feel restrictive.

Additionally, the Commission is bound by the Open Meetings Act (OMA), which sets boundaries for what kind of communication can occur outside of a public meeting. Commissioner Rich Schaeffer feels that the OMA limits some of the interpersonal interactions that he'd like to have with his fellow Commissioners: "It takes the wind out of the sails is what it does—for getting to know all of the people that you could possibly know."

*continued next page*



Rich Schaeffer

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Another challenge facing the Human Relations Commission has been how to put its mission and goals into practice. The Commissioners have come up with plenty of good ideas—and have received ideas from the Lansing community—but implementation has been a struggle.



Micaela Smith

their product, the Commissioners have a similar task.

"That's what we are, like a Shark Tank for a product. We're not really a business and we don't have a service, but we're developing how is this going to work and what does it look like," Smith said.

Commissioner Michael Bolz expressed a similar opinion, saying, "We spent a lot of time trying to understand what it is we've actually been commissioned to do.... New Commissions, if we're not on the same page as a group about what it is we're actually here to do, then we're not going to get anything done. We spent a lot of time on that."

The slow start has been especially challenging given the initial excitement surrounding the Commission. Public involvement in meetings has dwindled, and meetings often comprise fewer than all nine Commissioners.

"[In general, people] are always eager for

something at the start of it," Smith said. "Something new, something different, [people say], 'Wow, what is this going to be like?' And then in the background and underneath all of that, it's just like starting your own business or company—it takes a while to complete a whole vision."

#### SUCCESS?

The question of whether or not the HRC's first year has been successful is perhaps best answered by another question: By what standard should the Commission's success be measured? Lansing has never had a Human Relations Commission before, and even in the wider cultural context, the idea of such a Commission is relatively new, making the process of judging the HRC's first year difficult.

The Commission has adopted its mission and goals, attended numerous events, created a survey, generated ideas for events, gotten to know each other, and established a somewhat clearer vision of what they've been tasked with doing.

The Commission has not, however, hosted any events or facilitated any significant discussions for the public, and it is still relatively unknown throughout Lansing.

"What are the expectations?" mused Schaeffer. "People who aren't involved in things have higher expectations than the people that are in them because it's easy to criticize from the sidelines," he said.

"[Whether or not the HRC has been successful] is a hard question because what are we measuring? Based on what?...We haven't had anything to measure as a failure or it didn't work," said Smith.

She went on to say that some in Lansing might perceive the HRC as not having accomplished much: "What the residents expected or thought of has not been done," she said. "What they thought was supposed to be an action-type committee, to do things, to address things, to have [events], it didn't happen for them. So I can see how some residents may be like, 'Oh, they're not doing anything.'"

Given that the success of the Human Relations Commission's first year is difficult to measure, the Commissioners' only option is to build on the year's positives, learn from its challenges, and move into 2020 better equipped than they were when they entered 2019.

#### FUTURE PLANS

At their November 21 meeting—the last of 2019—the HRC focused especially on what projects they can bring to life in 2020. One idea was to partner with the Complete Count Committee to help inform Lansing residents about Census 2020. Commissioner Darvel Stinson is on the Complete Count Committee, and he explained to the HRC that there are opportunities to inform and educate the public on exactly what the census is, why it's important, and how

to participate. The HRC discussed the possibility of hosting a town hall-type event to make the most of these opportunities.

In addition, Commissioner Bolz suggested that the HRC might take 15 minutes each meeting to discuss a significant topic or open-ended question related to the mission and goals of the Commission. After some discussion on the idea, the Commission resolved to try it out at their January meeting by talking about generational issues. Bolz also mentioned that it might serve to attract more interest in the Commission if the Commissioners were engaged in relevant, meaningful discussions on a regular basis.

Commissioner Smith is excited to see an HRC website come to life, which the Commission has been working on for awhile with the Village Administration. It was announced during the November 21 meeting that the website domain will be [lansinghrc.org](http://lansinghrc.org), though the site is not yet live. Smith also feels that developing an email list is an important step for the HRC to take toward better communication with the public. She hopes that by this time next year, more people will be interested in the HRC and will attend its meetings again.

Bolz expressed a similar sentiment: "I would love to have seen a growing attendance for our meetings, where we're having discussions. I would love to see at least two or three events where either a speaker is brought in or we're discussing topics that matter to residents.... I think the major goal for our Commission should be to create spaces where people can come together and feel safe and encouraged to want to talk about things that not just bother them or are hard, but to build relationships."

It was in November of last year that Chairman Leo Valencia said the following to his fellow Commissioners at the HRC's first meeting: "You saw an opportunity to make a difference [by joining this Commission], a difference in people's lives. Our fellow brothers and sisters need our help, right? How are we going to fix it? I have no idea. But we're going to try, and we're going to get it done."

A year later the same sentiment holds true, though perhaps there's a better awareness among all involved of how difficult the mission and goals of the Commission are to achieve.

Lansing's Human Relations Commissioners are Michael Bolz, David Iwaszko, Jamica Quillin, Rich Schaeffer, Micaela Smith, Darvel Stinson, Regina Titsworth, Leo Valencia (Chair), and Bobb Wright. They meet every third Thursday of the month (though not this December) in the lower level of the Lansing Public Library, 2750 Indiana Avenue. The next meeting is scheduled for January 16 at 6:30pm.



Darvel Stinson



Leo Valencia

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## Nebraska and Colorado

SUBMITTED BY SANDI GANGOLF

Bert and Sandi Gangolf traveled west this fall, taking The Lansing Journal along and documenting their journey:



Above: Bert pauses by the Golden Spike Tower in North Platte, Nebraska. Below: He marks two locations in Colorado. (Photos: Sandi Gangolf)



# The Lansing Journal journeys

## Congo

SUBMITTED BY RENÉE HALE



Jeff Hale (right) of Lansing pastors Emmanuel Christian Reformed Church in Sauk Village. In October he led a team to Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo, to facilitate a retreat for Mission Aviation Fellowship personnel. The team included (from left) Jeff's wife Renée, Lansing; Cheryl Kapteyn, Lansing; and Jon Persenare, Crete; who stopped at the Parc Nsele safari park, not far from Kinshasa, the capital city. (Photo: MAF Pilot and Program Manager Stephen Hale, son of Pastor Jeff and Renée Hale)

## Golden Gate Bridge

SUBMITTED BY ALICE BANACH



The Banachs and the Raczaks were on the road with The Lansing Journal again—this time on a cruise down the West Coast. The friends were celebrating their 55th wedding anniversaries—the Raczaks' in September and the Banachs' in November. They flew to Vancouver, British Columbia, stayed overnight, and boarded the Norwegian Jewel the next day. The cruise made stops in the ports of Victoria, BC; Astoria, Oregon; and San Francisco, Monterey, and Los Angeles, California. In San Francisco the group stopped for a photo by the Golden Gate Bridge. "A fun time was had by all," says Alice. (Photo: Neil Schroers, also from Lansing, who was on the same cruise, with his wife Linda)

## Port of Portland

SUBMITTED BY DENISE JONES-WILLIAMS



Denise Jones-Williams and her husband, Sgt. Glenn Williams, are 11-year residents of Lansing. Denise serves on the District 158 School Board, and their children, Benjamin and Jubilee, attend Coolidge Elementary School. "We visited Portland, Oregon, for my sister's wedding," writes Denise. "When we saw the Veteran's Memorial in the airport we thought it would make a great pic as it was Veterans Day! Pictured here are myself, Jubilee, Benjamin, and Glenn. My oldest daughter Trinity took the pic."

## White House

SUBMITTED BY MIKE FISH



Lansing Village Trustee Mike Fish takes a quiet moment in Washington DC to review The Lansing Journal outside the White House. (Photo: Eric Fish)

## Keep those Journals journeying!

The Lansing Journal is a community newspaper, and we look for opportunities to involve our community in its pages. The Lansing Journal Journeys is an award-winning feature that showcases people bringing The Lansing Journal to creative locations. Contributors are invited to email us at [info@thelansingjournal.com](mailto:info@thelansingjournal.com) with the following three pieces of information: (1) the names of any people in the photo, (2) the name of the person who took the photo, and (3) information about the location or situation.

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## Lansing man wins Emmy

Patrick Gulotta and team from Intersport create winning Formula One commercial

BY CARRIE STEINWEG

LANSING, Ill. (November 26, 2019) - On November 16, the Chicago Midwest Region Emmy Awards were held at the Swissotel in Chicago and one of five nominees in the "Outstanding Achievement for Commercials - Single Spot" category was a promotional video for the Emirates Formula One Chicago Festival. That commercial was created by a team from Intersport, and the team included Patrick Gulotta of Lansing, the Vice President of Technical Operations.

A media and marketing firm, Intersport was tasked with making a commercial to build excitement about the F1 Chicago Festival this past June. Their commercial highlights Soldier Field (the festival venue), opening with an aerial shot of the stadium and the Chicago skyline behind it. A car races into the stadium and onto the field, and Chicago Bears' quarterback Mitch Trubisky makes an appearance.

It's not really Trubisky behind the wheel, but Gulotta and the production team made it look like it was. They worked with a stunt team to execute the realistic-looking 56-second spot.

Gulotta served as executive producer and oversaw a crew of about 50, coordinating with the stunt crew and working with the producing and directing staff.

"It was a team win," he said. "From day one in securing the job with Formula One, then execution, producing the event commercial, and editing, it was a massive team effort. This doesn't happen without a great team."

Intersport beat out two Chicago Cubs commercials, one from Notre Dame's Fighting Irish Media, and one from a hospital. According to Gulotta, the commercial was made to create more brand awareness of the Formula One racing circuit. "Formula One is very big in European markets and across the globe," he said. "They're trying to build up a larger fan base in the United States." The F1 festivals, which have also been held in Los Angeles and Miami, are one way the racing league is widening their audience.

Gulotta has been in the television industry for about 29 years and has worked for Intersport for the past 12 years. He said that it was such a special honor because the awards are voted on by people of the broadcast community. "It's really nice to be recognized, especially when its voted on by fellow peers in the industry," said Gulotta.

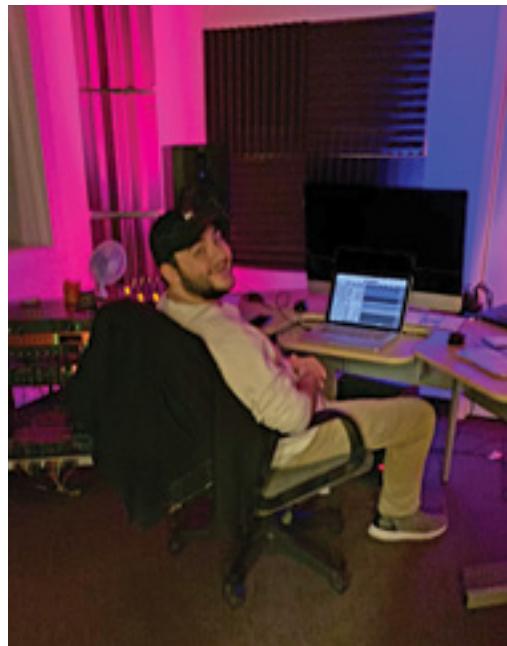
The Emmy is on display at Intersport's office, and individual team members had an opportunity to purchase one of their own. Gulotta was one of four from his company to attend the awards ceremony. Attending with him were Owen Weber, Scott Baker, and Hunter Bradley.

To view the commercial, visit youtube.com/watch?v=c-aAnrXodQg.

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Above left: Adjunct Professor of Modern Music Aaron Harris (seated on stage with guitar) rehearses with students Danielle Houvener on keyboard, Christian Cornejo on guitar, Chad Carson lead vocalist, and Keilah Arzet vocal backup and guitarist. Above center: Danielle Houvener, a senior in the Worship Leadership program, aspires to lead music for a church in the Nashville area. Above right: Student Josiah Sell works on mixing and mastering as part of his Music Production program. (Photos: Jennifer Yos)

## Visible Music College students prepare for December 6 concert at Living Word Church

BY JENNIFER YOS

LANSING, Ill. (November 29, 2019) - Students enrolled in Lansing's Visible Music College have been preparing this semester for their upcoming "A Visible Christmas" concert, and Lansing residents are invited to attend this free annual Christmas event on Friday, December 6, 7:00 pm, at Living Word Church. Complimentary tickets are now available and may be picked up at either Living Word Church (2248 186th Street) or Visible Music College (3404 Lake Street).

A Visible Christmas is an annual holiday concert that is a collaborative performance of Visible Music College students and staff from the Lansing campus, along with a traveling band of students and staff representing all Visible Music College campuses, including those in the areas of Memphis, TN; Dallas, TX; and Atascadero, CA. This will be the fifth Christmas concert held at Living Word Church in Lansing.

"All of our students are involved in some form or fashion for the Christmas shows happening at all of our locations," explains Lansing's Visible Music College Vice President of Academics Cameron Harvey. "And then we have a group from—this year our Memphis campus—that's traveling from show to

show, from Dallas to Memphis to Chicago. They'll be performing in each location, so we'll have a group that is representative of all campuses but also each local campus will have a part in the show and be represented."

Starting already in January of this year, Visible Music College students at all campuses have been composing and recording music for this year's Christmas album, which is the music that will be performed at the December 6 concert. "So we start that in January, and we work all year long on creating original content and doing original remakes of Christmas favorites," explains Harvey, "and we release a CD—this will be the eighth volume—of A Visible Christmas." The Visible Christmas Volume 8 album is digitally available at store.cdbaby.com/od/ various763 and will be available in CD form at the concert.

Visible Music College officially opened their Chicago area campus in Lansing, Illinois, in August of 2014. Accredited programs include both certificates and bachelor degrees in modern music, music business, music production, and creative leadership, as well as two masters degree programs: Master of Arts in Leadership and Master of Arts in Worship 2020.

New students may begin classes in spring or fall. The school also offers private music lessons for students of all ages who are interested in learning vocal performance, guitar, drums, or keyboard. For more information, visit the Visible Music College website at visible.edu.

The Lansing Visible Music College campus is located at 3404 Lake Street, near Fox Pointe.



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TF North High School and TF South High School students join together to form the Student Action Team. One of the group's biggest events is an annual Thanksgiving dinner for people in need. This year's dinner was Saturday, November 16. (Photo provided)

## Students from TF South, TF North serve Thanksgiving dinner Nov. 16

BY JENNIFER PALLAY

CALUMET CITY, Ill. (November 26, 2019) – Members of the Student Action Team love to help others—and they did just that in November by providing a special Thanksgiving meal to those in need.

The community service group includes students from TF North and TF South high schools who plan and organize volunteer events around the schools and in the Chicagoland area. One of the team's largest projects is their Thanksgiving dinner, which members recently organized for the third year.

"We want people to have somewhere to go and celebrate without worrying about where it's coming from," said Ana Boesenberg, Student Action Team co-sponsor and Spanish teacher at TF North.

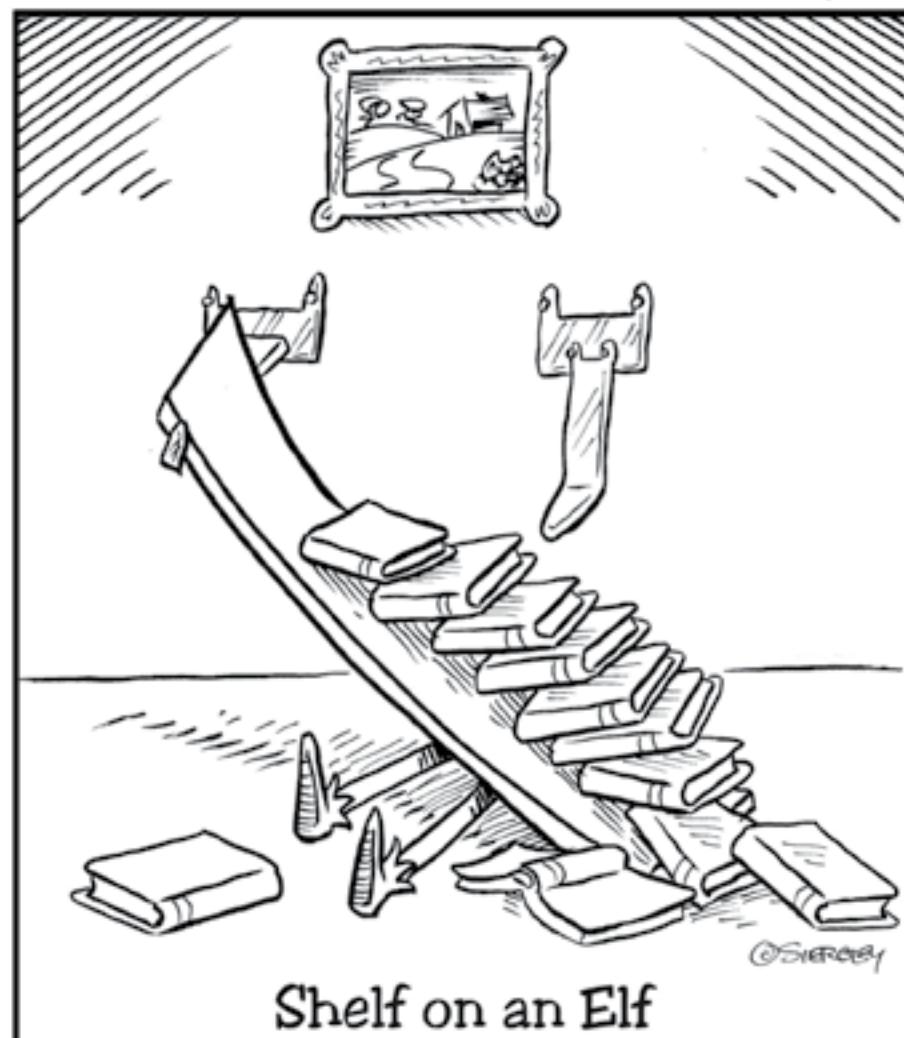
Students from both schools cook the food, serve the food, and run everything from children's activities to the coat check.

Ayanna Dowd, team co-sponsor and speech language pathologist at TF North and TF South, said, "It's a great chance for [the students] to understand the world isn't only about them.... It gives them an appreciation for what they have."

The students also learn that the face of need may be different from what they expect.

see "Thanksgiving," page 18

## nartoon by Jim Siergey



Artist Jim Siergey is part of a group show called Space•Energy•Time now on display at Wildrose Brewing Company (1104 E Main Street, Griffith, Indiana). The show explores how different people are affected by these three elements in different ways. Space•Energy•Time runs through February 15, 2020.

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# Lan-Oak Park District to raise fees in 2020

BY MELANIE JONGSMA

LANSING, Ill. (November 25, 2019) – Partly in response to incidents this past summer that resulted in damage to park property, the Park Board agreed to raise park shelter rental fees and damage deposits in the coming year. At the October 21 meeting, Senior Superintendent Sharon Desjardins proposed raising the damage deposit from \$100 to \$150, and after some discussion about whether that increase was significant enough to cover costs without deterring rentals, the proposal was adopted. Commissioners then voted unanimously at the November 18 Board meeting to raise the park rental fee from \$50 to

\$75 beginning January 1, 2020. The new fees were already printed in the Winter/Spring 2020 catalog.

Lan-Oak Park District offers ten rental options in six Lansing parks that showcase a variety of amenities:

- Bock Park (175th and Chicago Avenue) includes a shelter large enough to accommodate up to 150 people, surrounded by a newly installed playground, a skateboard



Erfert Park is one of six Lansing parks that offer rental options. Erfert is home to three picnic shelters that are available for rent. In 2020, the rental fee will be raised to \$75, and the damage deposit will be raised to \$150. (Photo: Melanie Jongsma)

park, basketball courts, the dog park, and a spacious parking lot.

- Erfert Park (188th and Burnham Avenue) offers three shelters that can be rented, and the park is home to a fishing pond, walking path, playground, and lot parking.
- Lan-Oak Park (180th and Oakley) is Lansing's largest park and is home to the largest playground as well as softball diamonds, tennis courts,

volleyball courts, and a horseshoes/bags pit. Rental options include two shelters located near street parking.

- Rotary Park (193rd and Sherman Street) offers two shelter options, a playground, a softball diamond, tennis courts, basketball courts, and a walking path.
- Schultz Park (Schultz Drive & Ada Street) is a spacious park with a

rentable tree-shaded picnic area (no shelter) surrounded by a playground, ball diamond, and basketball court.

- VanLaten Park (183rd and Holland Drive) is home to a unique Story-Walk feature and walking path, a playground, and a softball diamond as well as a picnic shelter that can be rented.

Paying the \$75 rental fee gives a resident exclusive use of the park shelter or designated picnic area from 11:00am–8:00pm, but does not reserve the public amenities of the park. Electricity is available in the shelters during the rental hours.

The \$150 damage deposit is fully refunded if no park rules are violated and no property is damaged.

Lansing residents may begin making park reservations on Monday, January 6, 2020. Non-residents may reserve starting on March 1, 2020. Staff at the Eisenhower Fitness Center keep records of which parks are available on which dates.

For more information about reserving Lansing parks, call 708-474-8552, or visit the Eisenhower Fitness Center, 2550 178th Street, Lansing, Illinois.

## Thanksgiving, continued from p 17

"They look just like you and I, but they don't have any food," Dowd said. "As they come in, the students are humbled. They look around and see all these people who need food. That's something they aren't used to thinking about."

The sponsors encourage students to talk to attendees and listen to their stories.

Student Action Team president Michelle Valdivia, a junior at TF North, said that in a society where so many people are cold and guarded, "it humbles me as a person, and it fills me with a great sense of happiness to see we are helping those in need. When I'm helping others, they are always smiling and so so grateful for everything we do, and it brings me so much happiness to know that we brought a little bit of happiness into their lives."

### ONE COMMUNITY, ONE DISTRICT

Jesus Barraza, a junior at TF North and a Student Action Team member, said he has seen the

Thanksgiving dinner evolve over the past three years.

"I feel great because each year the numbers grow," he said, crediting the team's "awesome sponsors" and generous members with the success.

"The people on the action team are really helpful people," he said. "We do it to bring the community together. It isn't only about giving back, but it's also about uniting as well. This is an event where we come together as a district."

The Thanksgiving meal is made possible through donations from sponsors in the communities and the support of administration teams at both schools.

### ALL KINDS OF STUDENTS

The Student Action Team invites any interested student from either school to join. Members can participate as their schedules allow.

"We are very inclusive. We have a lot of students from our special education population," Boesenbergs said.

Dowd's caseload includes many special education students who often are not involved in sports or clubs. "This gives them an opportunity to access the school with the other students. We have varying cognitive

abilities. Our general ed kids have worked really well together with them," she said.

### HELPING OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

In addition to the Thanksgiving dinner, the Student Action Team exists to serve the community, said Valdivia. "If there are other organizations that would like volunteers, I want them to know we are here. We are available, and they can contact us and we can set up a date to go out as a team and help them out."

The Student Action Team does a veterans lunch in May, and they volunteer at the Chicago Food Depository, Ronald McDonald House, Cradles to Crayons, the Humane Society, and local elementary schools and retirement homes.

For more information, e-mail Boesenbergs at ABoesenbergs@tfd215.org or Dowd at ADowd@tfd215.org.

TF North High School is located at 755 Pulaski Road in Calumet City, Illinois.

TF South High School is located at 18500 Burnham Avenue in Lansing, Illinois.

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**Calumet City, Lrg. 2bdrm. Apt. 2nd flr.** located 121-167th Street, off Wentworth. Clean, painted, blinds throughout. All electric, ready to rent. \$850/mo. No pets. For more information. 708-868-2590

**Home for rent: 16121 Ellis Ave. So. Holland.** 3bdrm, 2bath, \$1650/mo. Newly renovated, near schools. Serious inquires only. Call. 773-317-4432

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**Home for rent: Single family home.** 2 bdrm. livingrm. and dining area, sun room, full basement, with shower. Rent \$1400. Contact Ms. Livingston. 708-691-1604

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**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

### Autos and Vehicles

**For sale: Jeep Cherokee 1999.** Factory bought, One-owner, fully loaded, original miles 28,300mi. Mint condition, garage kept, no rust. Asking \$5,000, with leather seats. 708-786-4927

**2007 Ford Explorer Sport Trac XLT.** Silver exterior, second owner, garage kept, no accidents. New tires, low, low miles, 90,000. Asking \$9,900. 708-439-7736

**2002 Honda Odyssey,** 97k miles, \$3,000; 2003 Ford Explorer XLT, leather, sunroof, 3rd row, \$2,500; 2002 Mitsubishi Lancer, 99k miles, \$1,500; 2003 Oldsmobile Alero \$1,500. 708-474-0957

**For sale: 2007 Ford Escape,** no rust, decent body, new battery \$1900 obo. Richard. 773-646-3374

**For sale: 2013 Chevy Malibu LT black** \$6,987. Call Bob 855-949-6000

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**Moving sale:** 2-5x3.5ft dark brown cubicles, \$48; table/4chairs+open shelf hutch, \$100; Entire Barbie collection, variety of dolls, many still in box \$225. 708-528-1125

**Moving sale:** Light up fireplace/Tv stand, \$60; couch, 90" with camel back, \$90; bed/mattress, full size, \$65. 708-528-1125

**Moving sale:** Bric-a-Brac, clowns galore; African Art pieces, lot of 6 pcs., \$145; old toy assortment. 708-528-1125

New stuffed animals \$2 ea; large toy truck \$25; Makita heavy duty sander \$35. 708-753-0551

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

Ethan Allen wing back chair \$70; Ethan Allen old sofa \$100 obo; heavy duty universal bed frame \$15. 708-481-6907

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

Solid maple side table \$30; occasional square 26" dark wood table, 2 tier \$50; assorted decorative mirrors \$12-\$25. 708-481-6907



For sale: 58" solid wood dinette table \$100; 4 faux leather parson chairs, burnt orange, \$100. 708-596-5624

Welding cutting torch, complete set up with tanks on cart, portable, new over \$300, sell for \$150 obo. 708-837-9814

FREE: Oakwood trunk cut into approx. 24" high circular pieces. Burns a sweet smell & great for your fireplace. 708-672-4248

Girl's Winter Quilted Jacket, Black, size 20-1/2. Brand new condition. Paid \$100.00 asking \$20.00. 708-895-3195

For sale: Beautiful Phose craft dinnerware, serves 6, ivory w/ pink roses, included stemware (also has roses) just in time for the Holidays, \$35. Highland. 219-923-0458

SOFA END STORAGE TABLES: Two, dark brown, 26" W x 26" D x 20-1/4" H, 2-Doors. Solid & durable. \$35 each o.b.o. 708-333-2164

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Snow shovel, plastic blade with exc. wear strip \$12; ladies extra long snuggly sox, red or pink \$4 ea. 708-460-8308

Franklin mint heirloom collectible wall hanging display plates, Labrador Retriever, too many to list \$10 ea or 3 or more \$8 ea. Cal City 708-891-6226

Winter stuff: snow shovel, alum. scoop blade, new \$24; new bent handle plastic blade \$22; mini snow shovel \$8. 708-460-8308

Oxygen, acetylene, tanks, torches, hose, on cart, new \$350, sell for \$150 obo. 708-837-9814

mens steel toe boots. size 9. brand new. 60.00 amazon has them for 95.00. 219-895-0871

Lighted plastic yard figures: Santa Claus \$10, candle \$5, lamp posts \$5. 773-785-7247

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Handbags, Coach, red leather, hand/shoulder, \$40.00. Clairborne, brown, hobo, \$20.00. Burberry, new, k/o, \$35.00. 708-645-4245

For sale: Mens Carhartt, medium jack J130, sandstone color, \$45. 708-268-3915

Refrigerator freezer, Kenmore white 18 cu. ft. \$150 obo, delivery available. 219-742-4434

Drum set, five piece professional quality, Royce precision pro brand. 708-774-7744

Generator 1000 watts, new never opened in box, new \$130 sell for \$80 obo. 708-837-9814

Mens Bears XCL blue/orange jacket \$35; winter beige XL jacket, zips & snaps, \$20; Blackhawks new XL red/black shirt, perfect \$30. 708-460-8308

For sale: Flat screen TV w/ brand new Universal remote, good picture, \$30. Highland. 219-923-0458

Ladies Black Orthopedic Dress Shoes, size 7-1/2. Purchased from Sandler's. Originally \$144.00. Brand new condition. \$25.00. 708-895-3195

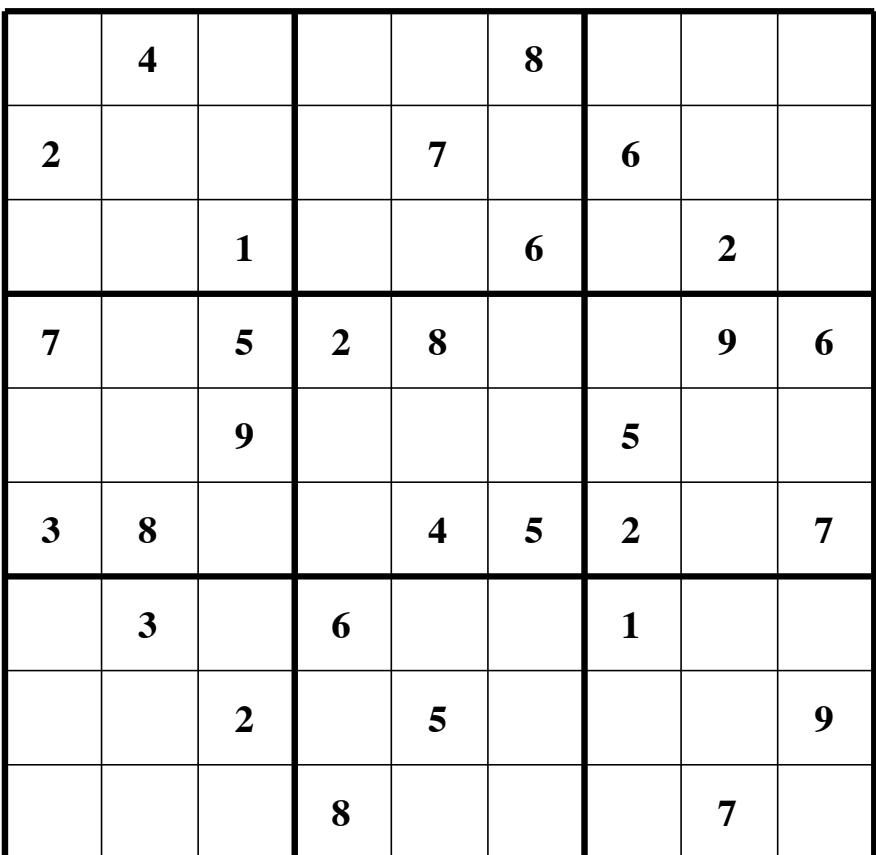
PORTABLE TV STAND: Black, Brass trim, 2" Wheels, 28" W x 17" D x 21-1/2" H, 1-Door. Solid & durable. \$35 o.b.o. 708-333-2164

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Ratcheting clamps, 2 in. or 3 in. new \$5 ea; qt. graphite 10W40 oil \$1 ea; qt.

# SUDOKU



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

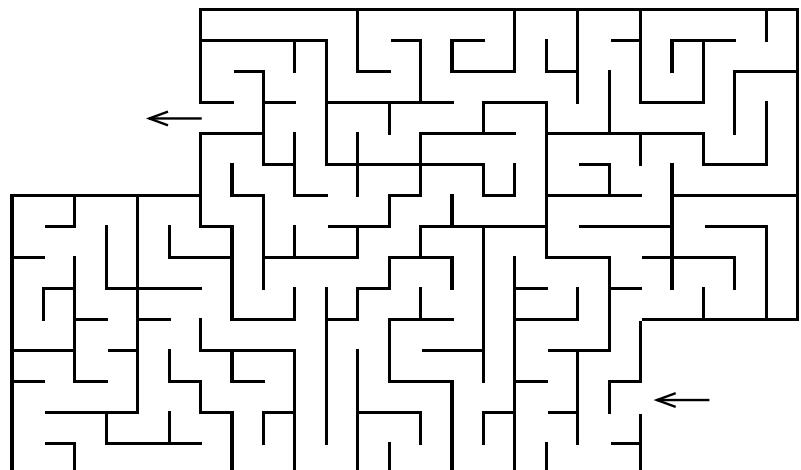
# WORDSEARCH



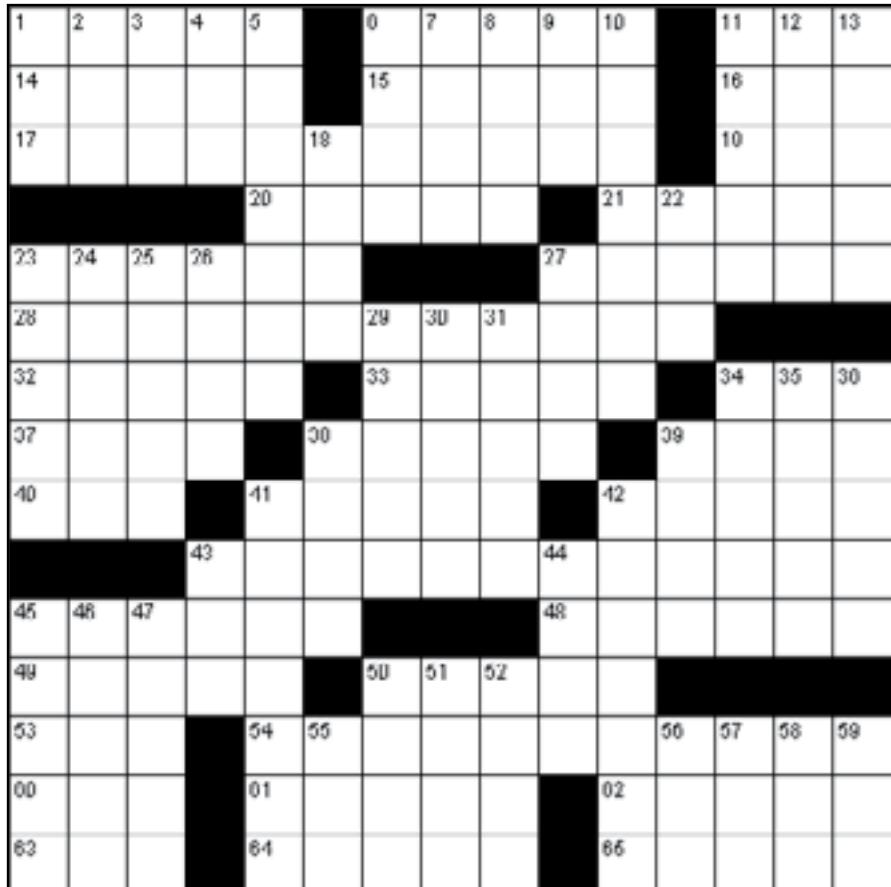
## It's Elementary

Aluminum	Fluorine	Mercury	Radon
Arsenic	Gold	Neon	Selenium
Boron	Helium	Nickel	Silver
Calcium	Hydrogen	Nitrogen	Sodium
Carbon	Iodine	Oxygen	Sulfur
Chlorine	Iron	Palladium	Tin
Chromium	Krypton	Platinum	Titanium
Cobalt	Lead	Plutonium	Tungsten
Copper	Lithium	Radium	Zinc

# SOLVE THE MAZE



# CROSSWORD



## ACROSS

- 1. Food flavoring
- 6. Worries
- 11. Fabric made from camel hair
- 14. Coniferous trees
- 15. Vampire
- 16. Male sheep
- 17. Skepticism of religion
- 19. Estimated Time of Arrival
- 20. Food consumer
- 21. Trousers
- 23. Express agreement
- 27. Forever
- 28. Food shop
- 32. Love intensely
- 33. Full of flavor
- 34. Choke
- 37. Fence door
- 38. Papal court
- 39. Therefore
- 40. N N N N
- 41. US symbol
- 42. Daub
- 43. Divorce
- 45. Encypher
- 48. Made a short golf stroke
- 49. Having a wave-like pattern
- 50. Unit of measure of gold purity
- 53. An Internet indexing tool
- 54. An affliction or trial
- 60. East southeast
- 61. Cove
- 62. Actor Clark \_\_\_\_\_
- 63. Crimson
- 64. Phones
- 65. Wear away

## DOWN

- 1. Resort
- 2. Swine
- 3. Hotel
- 4. Chief Executive Officer
- 5. The central theme
- 6. Skim or dart
- 7. A competition involving speed
- 8. Chieftain
- 9. It is (poetic)
- 10. Tried
- 11. Sporting venue
- 12. Bonkers
- 13. Gather
- 18. Bye-bye
- 22. Bristles on a sheath of barley
- 23. Memorable saying
- 24. A style of car
- 25. Long narrow openings
- 26. Ireland
- 27. Largest continent
- 29. Genus of hemlock spruce
- 30. Noblemen
- 31. Secret agents
- 34. Fantastic
- 35. Chalcedony
- 36. Pierced
- 38. A portable container
- 39. Send forth
- 41. Vivid
- 42. A tax or levy (archaic)
- 43. Beetle
- 44. Gemstone
- 45. A glowing piece of coal
- 46. Hangman's knot
- 47. Quoted
- 50. Slay
- 51. Cain's brother
- 52. Furrows
- 55. Registered Nursing Assistant
- 56. Asphalt
- 57. A people of southeast Nigeria
- 58. Not young
- 59. Born

## At loose ends

To be at a loose ends means to have nothing to do. It is a nautical term from the days of sailing ships. A ship's captain would task idle sailors with checking the ends of rigging ropes to ensure none had come loose.

## SOLUTIONS

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

M	E	D	G	A	N	T	H	E	R	J	L	A	G
W	E	N	S	T	N	E	N	T	E	N	T	N	E
Y	E	N	S	T	N	E	N	T	E	N	T	N	E
U	E	N	S	T	N	E	N	T	E	N	T	N	E
I	E	N	S	T	N	E	N	T	E	N	T	N	E

The crossword and word search puzzles are provided by Crossword Cryptic.

Announcements are free and run in The Shopper each week. They are accepted by e-mail at 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.

# Salute to Vienna New Year's Concert returns to Chicago

INFORMATION PROVIDED BY SALUTE TO VIENNA

CHICAGO, Ill. (November 21m 2019) – The music of Johann Strauss and his contemporaries is brought to life each year at the Salute to Vienna New Year's Concert in Chicago. The production includes a live symphony orchestra, European singers, ballroom dancers, and ballet, all combining to perform a fresh musical program with a new cast each year.

Salute to Vienna will once again take place at Orchestra Hall, Symphony Center—on Sunday, December 29, 2019. This year's performance will be conducted by Maestro Imre Kollár of Budapest, while Vienna's Sera Gösch and Roman Martin—along with dancers from Kiev-Aniko Ballet of Ukraine and International Champion Ballroom Dancers—will fill the hall with the sights and sounds of Vienna at the turn of the 20th Century.

Directly inspired by the traditional Neujahrskonzert, which has been presented every year for more than eight decades in Vienna, Salute to Vienna is a reminder of the longstanding tradition of the Viennese ball where waltzes and polkas are danced to the music of a live orchestra. Chicago's Salute to Vienna has become a 25-year tradition and has earned a



This year's production of "A Salute to Vienna" will be at Symphony Center on Sunday, December 29, 2019. (Photo: Todd Rosenberg Photography, 2018)

dedicated following in North America.

Attila Glatz Concert Productions manages a variety of entertainment options worldwide, but the Salute to Vienna New Year's Concert has become their signature production, presented annually in more than 20 cities across North America during the holiday season. Salute to Vienna was recreated

at Vienna's Konzerthaus for PBS, and this concert has aired across North America on public television more than 1,000 times.

The Symphony Center at Orchestra Hall is located at 220 S Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Illinois. Call 312-294-3000 for information or to make reservations.

## Christmas concerts by South Holland Master Chorale scheduled in Homewood and Dyer



INFORMATION PROVIDED BY THE SOUTH HOLLAND MASTER CHORALE

SOUTH HOLLAND, Ill. (November 28, 2019) – This year's Christmas concert by South Holland Master Chorale is titled, "The Morning Star." The Chorale will present the concert in two performances:

- Sunday, December 8, 4:00pm at St. Joseph Catholic Church (17951 Dixie Highway, Homewood, Illinois)
- Sunday, December 15, 3:00pm at St. Maria Goretti Catholic Church (500 Northgate Drive, Dyer, Indiana)

The chorale, joined by the Davidsmeier Quartet, will present music of Corelli, Kuhnau, and Mendelssohn, and new arrangements of beloved Christmas carols and hymns.

The Southlake Children's Choir also will perform.

Both concerts are free. The December 8 concert is partially supported by a grant from the Illinois Arts Council Agency.

More information is available at [southhollandmasterchorale.org](http://southhollandmasterchorale.org) or by phone: 708-210-2913.

**Christmas Carol Sing**

Sunday, December 8 at 5:30p.m.

Join us as we kick off the Christmas season with a special evening of music.

*There will be congregational singing as well as special numbers presented.*

Coffee and cookies will be served in the lower level following the program.

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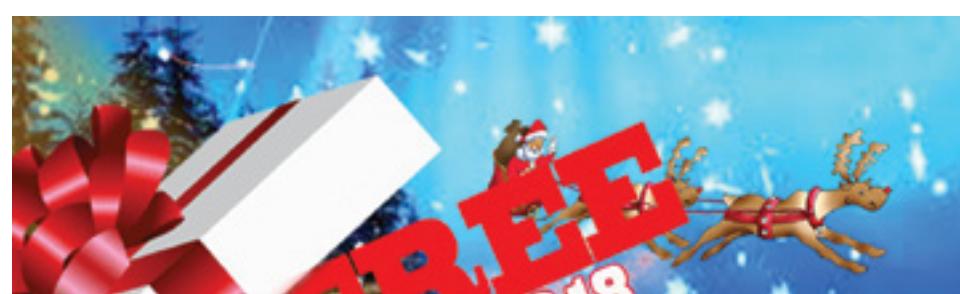
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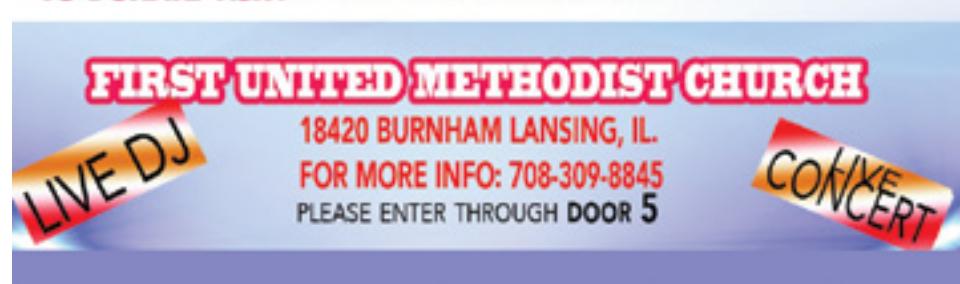
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## **White Christmas brings charm of original film to Theatre at the Center**

Musical adaptation unites artistry and nostalgia



With its holiday charm, winsome characters, and vibrant costumes, choreography, and music, *White Christmas* is a wonderful way to enjoy Christmas this year. (Photo: Michael Brosilow)

BY JOSH BOOTSMA

MUNSTER, Ind. (December 1, 2019) – The theatre swells as Bob Wallace invites the audience to join him and the rest of his troupe in Irving Berlin's "White Christmas," the timeless refrain of heart-warming, snowy nostalgia. So ends *White Christmas*, Theatre at the Center's delightful holiday offering running through December 22.

### **CHARMING STORY, TWEAKED FOR THE STAGE**

An adaptation of the beloved 1954 film of the same name, *White Christmas* takes the charm of the original, adds a few songs and tweaks a few characters, and brings it to the stage, where it feels just as natural as the version you watched on your VHS decades ago.

The musical opens during World War II where we meet Bob Wallace (Matt Edmonds) and Phil Davis (Justin Brill), who are busy entertaining their GI colleagues. Fast forward 10 years and the pair is performing on the Ed Sullivan Show, soon after which

they meet the singing sisters Betty and Judy Haynes (Erica Stephan and Casienna Raether). Phil and Judy hit it off, and Phil tricks Bob into going to Vermont with the sisters. The foursome arrives to discover (1) there's no snow, (2) Phil and Bob's old Army general, Henry Waverly (Neil Friedman) is the owner of the inn where they're staying, and (3) he is struggling to make ends meet. Bob and Phil spend the rest of the musical preparing a special Christmas performance for the General, inviting all of their old army pals to support him.

### **FANTASTIC FOURLSOME**

As in the original film, *White Christmas* lives or dies at the hands of its four leading actors, a hurdle that the Theatre at the Center's foursome vaults handily. Matt Edmonds has big shoes to fill in those of Bing Crosby, who played Bob Wallace in the original film, and Edmonds fills them in very Crosby-esque style while adding a dash of his own youthful energy. His strong vocal performance, and those of the rest of the ensemble, have a 1950s warm holiday timbre to

them, making them easy and enjoyable to listen to.

Erica Stephan offers a compelling and beautiful Betty, whose sometimes-flirtatious-sometimes-inimical relationship with Bob both delights and frustrates the audience the way it's intended to. Justin Brill as Phil Davis and Casienna Raether as Judy Haynes provide a fun-loving foil to Bob and Betty, and are equally talented vocally.

### **CHARACTERS AND CHOREOGRAPHY**

Using the entire thrust and proscenium of the stage, *White Christmas* fills the large area well with its group dance numbers, though some of the more intimate moments of the musical seem detached from the audience as they play out in the cavernous space. The group numbers, many of which include tap dancing, are excellently choreographed by the director of the show, Linda Fortunato. Of particular delight is a scene on the train to Vermont where, in a mimed train car, the cheery ensemble sings "Snow" continued next page



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# **Saturday, December 14th**

**S** TF South High School Cafeteria 8am-11am

Betty and Judy Haynes (Erica Stephan and Casiena Raether, left to right) perform "Sisters" while Bob and Phil look on. (Photo: Michael Brosilow)



and creates beautiful levels and movement that frame Bob and Betty's awkward and reticent moods, eventually getting them to join in the snowy anticipation.

Though the escapading troupe is disappointed to arrive in a Vermont that promises more green than white on Christmas, the audience is thrilled to meet the most enjoyable departure from the original film: Martha "The Megaphone" Watson (Glory Kissel). The former professional singer known for her ostentatious verve in both life and song is now the nosy housekeeper of the Columbia Inn, owned by General Waverly. Kissel's pulsating energy draws the audience's attention almost magnetically and her wailing "Let Me Sing and I'm Happy" drew a rollicking round of applause.

On the other end of the spectrum is Edmonds' intimate and sweet performance of "Count Your

Matt Edmonds stars as Bob Wallace (center) and Justin Brill stars as Phil Davis (right). Also pictured, Denzel Tsopnang as Sheldrake. (Photo: Michael Brosilow)



An enjoyable departure from the original film, Martha "The Megaphone" Watson (Glory Kissel) wows onlookers with "Let me Sing and I'm Happy." (Photo: Michael Brosilow)



"Blessings," which Bob Wallace sings to General Waverly's young granddaughter Susan (Raegan Smedley), who is having trouble sleeping. Sung in the original film by Bob to Betty, "Count Your Blessings" is given a new charm as Bob sings it to Susan while

Betty and the General look on.

Regular Theatre at the Center patrons will recognize the ease with which Neil Friedman's General Waverly interacts with Smedley's Susan, as he starred in last year's *Miracle on 34th Street* as Santa Claus. Though presented with a more military-oriented character in this year's holiday musical, the same winsome warmth shines through.

#### VIBRANT COSTUMES

Just as impressive as the performances are the vibrant costumes throughout the show.

From army overcoats to swanky gowns to stark red Christmas suits, costume designer Brenda Winstead has designed a festive array of beautiful costumes that contribute to the festive 1950s aura of the musical and help bring out the life in its characters.

#### NOSTALGIA AND ARTISTRY

Theatre at the Center's *White Christmas* is a fabulous way to enjoy the holidays this year. Although fans of the original film might point out some minor plot differences, the kind-hearted spirit of *White Christmas* remains the same, and is perhaps better suited for the stage as a result of the character and song additions. As the snow slowly descends and the audience joins the red and white-clad characters in their song of glistening tree tops and snowy sleigh bells, the full nostalgic power of Christmas joins with the artistic power of the theatre—leaving eyes moistened and hearts enlivened.

"Remember when you told me to have fun?" Bob asks Phil mid-way through the show.

"Yeah," Phil replies.

"Well I'm having it," says Bob, with a smile. We are too, Bob. We are too.

#### PERFORMANCE TIMES AND RATES

The show runs through December 22 during the dates and times listed below:

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

Individual ticket prices range from \$42-\$46. To purchase individual tickets, call the Box Office at 219-836-3255.

Theatre at the Center is located at 1040 Ridge Road in Munster, Indiana. For more information, visit [www.TheatreAtTheCenter.com](http://www.TheatreAtTheCenter.com).

As of this writing, *The Lansing Journal* has three remaining pairs of complimentary tickets that are valid for any show on December 18, 19, or 20. We will give these to the first three supporters who make a gift online: [www.thelansingjournal.com/news/support](http://www.thelansingjournal.com/news/support)

**Irving Berlin's**

**White Christmas**

**NOV 14 - DEC 22**

**The Musical**

Actors Erica Stephan and Casiena Raether. Photo by Guy Rhodes.

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of God to bless you and the Lansing community throughout this holiday season and into the new year. *Amen!*

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