

SPECIAL ISSUE:

SUMMER IN LANSING



LAN-OAK PARK — 20 acres of community spirit

Established in 1950 through community efforts, Lan-Oak Park was Lansing's first park and is still the largest. The 20-acre spread is located between Arcadia (west border) and Oakley (east), and 178th (north border) and 180th (south). The park's amenities include playground equipment, ball fields, two shelters, and—coming this summer—sand volleyball courts. (Photo: Josh Bootsma)

BY MARLENE COOK

LANSING, Ill. (May 27, 2022) — Lansing families owe a debt of gratitude to Dorothy Olas and all who joined her in 1947 in a mission to create a place for children to play. Their work led to the development of Lansing's first park—Lan-Oak Park.

FROM PINOCHLE GAME TO BOARD MEETING

Olas was president of the Meld Club, a group of eight women who gathered to play pinochle. Over cards, the women discussed the need for a safe place for children to play. They appointed Olas as their spokesperson. As such, she attended a Village of Lansing

Board meeting in April 1947 to ask if there was any way to acquire land for a park.

Mayor George Jones shared Olas' dream to have a place for Lansing children to have fun, but he informed Olas that, regrettably, no funds were available for a park. He said if she could find a way to get the money, he'd support the development of a park.

FROM NO FUNDS TO \$1,200

Olas was a very active and influential member of several service groups, so she invited eight representatives of eight organizations to a meeting. By the end of the meeting, those eight people were members of the Play-

ground Equipment Organization. Their goal was to raise the estimated \$900 needed for playground equipment. They succeeded in raising over \$1,200 through donations, talent shows, dances, raffles, and solicitations. Those funds were used to purchase ten pieces of equipment, including two merry-go-rounds and slides.

CREATING A PARK DISTRICT

So now they had funds for park equipment, but no park to put it in. True to his word, Mayor Jones, along with Delphus LaTulip, George Schultz, Mildred Young, Dorothy Olas, and Charles Gabriel, circulated petitions for a

special election to create a park district and park board. O.I. Lewis, Village Attorney, submitted the petitions to the Cook County Clerk. Permission was granted, and on April 19, 1949, a special election was held. Votes cast included 733 in favor of creating a park district and governing board, and 210 opposed.

The next month, the courts approved the organization of the board as well as the ability to tax for revenue. This group of motivated citizens now had funds and a park board—consisting of Dorothy Olas, Mildred Young, Delphus LaTulip, George Schultz, and George Gabriel—but still no land for a park. Again, residents

stepped up to meet the need. Twenty acres of land, located south of 178th street and east of Arcadia Avenue, was donated by William and George Schultz, Gus Bock, and O.I. Lewis. The land was just a corn field, and no roads led to it. Additional funds were necessary to develop the newly-created park.

FROM CORN FIELD TO PARK

Board members explained that a sale of tax warrants was necessary to obtain funds for the 1949 operations, since tax money wouldn't be forthcoming until 1950. The board budgeted \$10,013

See "LAN-OAK PARK," page 17



The Fox Pointe sign on Ridge Road highlights some of the updates at the venue for the 2022 season. (Photo: Josh Bootsma)

Fox Pointe makes adjustments, improvements for 2022 season

BY JOSH BOOTSMA

LANSING, Ill. (May 27, 2022) — Throughout the summer, hundreds of local residents will again gather at Fox Pointe for music, food, festivals, and community enjoyment.

As it hosts its first Wednesday evening concert on June 1, Fox Pointe will begin its third year of regular performances since opening in the fall of 2018. After a debut concert season in 2019, and a COVID-cancelled summer schedule in 2020, last year's season was a success, and drew an average crowd of 750-1,000 people—local and otherwise—to downtown Lansing on evenings throughout the summer.

This year, the Village of Lansing is looking to capitalize on last year's successes, sample some new offerings, and apply what they have learned from two years' experience.

"Each year is like another step up," said Ken Reynolds, Director of Communications for the Village. "We're kind of doing

last year better this year."

WEDNESDAY SERIES—FEWER DATES, TIME CHANGES, OPENING ACTS

Though venturing further into specialty events this year, Fox Pointe's primary rhythm remains the Wednesday evening concert series. This year's schedule has been cut short by a month, however, as the Village hopes to dodge both poor fall weather and late-concert-season fatigue. Last year's series ended on October 6; this year's will end on September 7.

Gates will open at 6 p.m. again this year, though the headline act will not take the stage until 7:30, a half hour later than last year. To fill that time, Fox Pointe will host an opening act before the main headliner takes the stage. The opening act will be a smaller band that starts its set shortly after the gates open.

See "FOX POINTE," page 10

Five and forward

This year is a milestone, not a finish line

BY MELANIE JONGSMA, PUBLISHER

LANSING, Ill. (May 27, 2022) - When The Lansing Journal began publishing news in 2017, we were optimistic about being able to balance print and digital strategically. We believed we could use both and multiply their impact rather than setting up either to cannibalize the other.



We didn't know it at the time, but fluency in both print and digital is what has kept The Lansing Journal in business for the past five years. We believe it has also positioned us to move forward into the next five and beyond.

PRINT PREFERENCES

Those of us who grew up before the internet remember when the only type of publishing available involved large machinery, giant rolls of paper, expensive ink, and teams of people who each had a role in taking an article from concept to a printed page. Traditional publishing was an expensive, lengthy process, so it was a big deal to see your name in print.

And even though we've accommodated the internet into our lives now, many of us are still partial to print. Sometimes it's just nice to be able to view a whole page at once rather than scrolling through a screen.

DIGITAL DEMAND

But the pandemic taught us the benefits of digital too. Our world in 2020 was changing daily, and print just couldn't keep up. Digital systems allowed us to gather data from local as well as national sources, publish it quickly, and distribute it immediately.

Readers who had always preferred the monthly printed Lansing Journal now signed up for our daily email. It was the best way to stay informed and connected.

We made changes in order to meet those demands. We redesigned our website, switched to a more robust server, joined an association of online news publishers, and enhanced our digital advertising options. The world was changing, and our community needed us more than ever, so we changed too. We kept moving forward.

SPECIAL SITUATIONS

Digital continues to serve us well even though the urgency of the pandemic has subsided. "Regular" news still happens every day, so we continue to report, publish, and deliver it via email, Facebook, and Twitter. Publishing digitally allows us to include photos, videos, and links to related information. And it allows our readers to share the news with a few simple clicks.

But there are special situations when it makes sense to have a tangible, printed page to refer to. This summer in Lansing is one of those times. For example:

- Our District 215 graduates have had an

unprecedented school career, so the District 215 School Board wanted to express congratulations. The ad on page 12—which board members purchased with their own money—is more meaningful in print than online.

- A full summer of family-friendly entertainment is scheduled at Fox Pointe—so in addition to the ad the Village of Lansing purchased listing those events (page 11), we published event descriptions and a story about the venue enhancements made this year (pages 1, 12, and 13). We laid out this print issue to make that information convenient to refer to all summer long.
- If you're new to Lansing, you might not know about our parks and bike trails—so we put that information in print for you on pages 1, 20, and 21.
- And we want people to know about our local businesses too. So throughout these printed pages you'll find articles about new businesses, but also ads that include coupons and other important information. Those print ads serve as a reminder that shopping local keeps a community strong.

SPEAKING OF LOCAL BUSINESSES

The Lansing Journal is a local business too. We serve our community by reporting local news, and we depend on community support in order to keep providing that service. Advertising revenue is a major source of income for us, and reader support makes up the difference.

We need both.

If you have been a Lansing Journal reader for the past five years, I hope you'll help us keep moving forward. I hope you'll make a contribution to express appreciation and keep us in business.

If you had never heard of The Lansing Journal before receiving this print issue on your doorstep, I hope you'll sign up to receive our Daily News email so you can stay informed and connected. The subscription is free because we want news to be accessible. But honestly, we hope you'll love the Journal so much that you'll voluntarily contribute to support it!

WHAT YOUR SUPPORT ACCOMPLISHES

Advertising revenue and reader support have kept The Lansing Journal going and growing for the past five years. In celebration of those five years, let me list five ways we've recently grown because of your support:

1. We keep expanding our team of journalists. You'll see a variety of bylines throughout these printed pages, and there are more on our website.
2. We held our first



Freshman Editorial Contest, which gave us unique exposure to younger voices and the issues they are concerned about.

3. We've added news ways of sharing information—audio versions of our online articles, Spanish translations of online stories, and weekly videos that allow us to explore topics in-depth.
4. We introduced new categories of news. For example, Lansing History has become a popular feature, and Lansing Weather has given us a way to showcase our community through daily photos.
5. We've increased our reach. Over the past year, The Lansing Journal has seen 25% more users on our website, and a 32% increase in pageviews. Our subscriber list has grown by hundreds.

This growth is possible because we are supported by readers like you who believe it's important for our community to have a reliable source of balanced, independent news. Thank you.

FIVE AND FORWARD

We are proud to have served our community for the past five years, but we aren't finished yet. This five-year anniversary is a milestone, not a finish line. We hope you'll join us as we keep moving forward.

In addition to enjoying this special print issue of The Lansing Journal, will you subscribe to our Daily News email? The subscription is free (though we welcome contributions), but you do have to sign up for it. Sign up at thelansingjournal.com/subscribe or by scanning the QR code.



Thank you for your readership and support from 2017 until now. Your partnership got us this far, and your partnership will keep us moving forward. ■

Notice the envelope

BY MELANIE JONGSMA, PUBLISHER

LANSING, Ill. (May 16, 2022) - We've included a giving envelope in this print issue for people who want to support the quality community coverage The Lansing Journal provides.

In this issue we are reporting on summer activities and opportunities, local business developments, local government issues, goings-on in Lansing schools and churches, and some local history that provides context for our community. If that kind of news is helpful to you, will you make a contribution?

It's all local news, covered by local reporters.

It's news that no other newspaper is reporting.

Contributions from local readers are what make this local coverage possible.

IT ALL SUPPORTS THE JOURNALISM

When you give to The Lansing Journal, it all supports the journalism. We appreciate your help.

Is your envelope missing? Here's the mailing info for sending in a check: The Lansing Journal, PO Box 742, Lansing IL 60438.



ABOUT US

The Lansing Journal provides balanced, trustworthy, local news in a way that builds community in Lansing, Illinois, and the surrounding region. Content appearing in The Lansing Journal—in print or online—is subject to copyright laws. Our contact info is:
 The Lansing Journal
 P.O. Box 742, Lansing IL 60438
 708-921-4938
info@thelansingjournal.com
<https://thelansingjournal.com>

SUBSCRIPTIONS

The Lansing Journal publishes online daily and in print occasionally. We don't charge for subscriptions, but reader support helps cover the costs of reporting, publishing, and delivering local news every day. Sign up for Daily News at thelansingjournal.com/subscribe or by scanning the QR code.

STAFF

Publisher: Melanie Jongsma
 Managing Editor: Josh Bootsma
 Contributors: Quinton R. Arthur, Katie Arvia, Marlene Cook, Jamilyn Hiskes, Carrie Steinweg, Karen Abbott Trimuel, Jennifer Yos

ADVERTISING

The Lansing Journal offers a range of ad sizes—online and in print—for businesses, schools, churches, and other community organizations who want to effectively reach customers and constituents. Prices range from \$100 to \$1,000, and advertising revenue helps cover the costs of reporting, publishing, and delivering local news every day. Email sales@thelansingjournal.com for details.

SUBMISSIONS

The Lansing Journal is a community newspaper that welcomes community involvement. Readers who have story ideas, photos, or articles to contribute for possible publication are welcome to email info@thelansingjournal.com.

PUBLISHER'S NOTICE

Any real estate advertising in The Lansing Journal is subject to Fair Housing Laws, which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, national origin, familial status, sexual orientation, marital status, military status, age, ancestry, parental status, source of income, military discharge status, or housing status," no matter how large or small the property. We will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain of discrimination, call HUD toll-free at 800-669-9777. The toll-free number for hearing-impaired people is 800-927-9275.

The Lansing Journal is a grateful member of Investigative Reporters and Editors, Local Independent Online News, and the Lansing Area Chamber of Commerce.

TF South changes nickname to 'Red Wolves'

New nickname receives overwhelming support after initially faltering



Above: TF South marched as Red Wolves in the May 7 Good Neighbor Day Parade. Right: An official Red Wolves logo has not yet been developed, but students have begun declaring their new identity on the TF South spirit rock along Burnham Avenue. (Photos: Josh Bootsma)

BY QUINTON R. ARTHUR

LANSING, Ill. (April 28, 2022) - Thornton Fractional South High School's new mascot was approved during District 215's April 26 school board meeting. Lansing's public high school will now be known as the "Red Wolves."

ORIGINS AND CHANGES

The new name is the culmination of a process that began in 2020 when the board voted unanimously to dissolve the name "Rebels," which originated from a reference to the Confederacy. As TF South Principal Jake Gourley explained, when TF South was founded in 1958, the pun was that the "South" had seceded from the "North" campus. The imagery adopted by the new Thornton Fractional South campus was that of a Confederate soldier, the Confederate flag, and the nick-

name "Rebels." Gourley also noted that the Confederate flag was removed in the mid-1990s and the Confederate soldier mascot was eliminated by the mid-2000s.

Many TF South alumni have disassociated the name Rebel from its Confederate origins and focused instead on the connotation of resisting convention. Still, in August of 2020, after hearing concerns from current students and the community about the racially-charged history of the name, the board voted to finally dissolve the nickname "Rebels." A process was then initiated for a new school mascot.

FIRST AND SECOND ROUND

The renaming process began in the 2020-21 school year. The task force comprised four TF South staff and three elected student representatives from each grade.

They worked through a list of over 100 submitted names from staff, students, and the community. The list was narrowed down to 20, then to five.

Due to low engagement during the pandemic, the school board voted against renaming to "Red Wolves" in June 2021 to allow more participation in the process. The response rate at the time was 366 individuals.

During a second round of the process in 2021-22, the list of names was narrowed down to two: "Flyers" and "Red Wolves." More students and staff participated this time, increasing response to 999. "Red Wolves" received 715 of the votes. Roughly 1,800 students are enrolled at TF South.

PART OF THE PACK

TF South Junior Caleb Newman and Social Studies teacher

Rob Shell—both of whom were on the task force to help choose the new name—attended the April 26 board meeting.

Shell shared that "Red Wolves" was selected during the first round of voting. "It reinforces the idea that it was popular with the students, and it was their number one choice," said Shell.

Newman feels school spirit will be revitalized after almost two years without a mascot. "The big thing for me is that this will give our school some type of culture. The Red Wolves is versatile, and we can throw it in a few different scenarios," he said.

The mascot's nickname will be Victor E. Wolf and at games will be supported by howls from the student section, "The Pack." Students and Athletes of the Month will be recognized as "Leaders of

the Pack," and various places around the school will be referred to as "The Den." Younger students who visit the school will be referred to as the "Pup Pack."

"I know for me as an athlete, I was able to come in while I was in middle school and watch a practice," said Newman. "The Red Wolves will have an actual mascot now, like a mascot suit, and I think the kids will love that."

The final step in the renaming process was a vote from the school board, which was unanimous.

Next, students and staff will be involved in creating core values relating to the new name, "Laws of the Pack." Finalizing a logo with a graphic designer is also in progress.

TF South High School is located at 18500 Burnham Ave. ■

SOUTH SUBURBAN
Heating & Air Conditioning, Inc.

708-474-3455

LANSING, ILLINOIS
SouthSuburbanHeating.com

THINGS TO REMEMBER THIS SUMMER:

- All cooling systems need tuning to perform at peak capacity
- We service most brands
- We specialize in American Standard and Mitsubishi because those tend to give the best value for our customers.

Call today for a personalized assessment

School Resource Officer coming to District 158 schools

Recent violence at Memorial Jr. High highlights need for SRO, say D158 and LPD

BY JOSH BOOTSMA

LANSING, Ill. (May 27, 2022) – A School Resource Police Officer will be placed at Memorial Jr. High School next year, and will serve the middle school as well as District 158's elementary schools and primary school. A collaboration of D158 and the Lansing Police Department, the officer will respond to illegal activity but also become a part of the schools' communities as a trusted figure and, perhaps, a friend.

Hoped to be hired before next school year, the School Resource Officer (SRO) will be a full-time employee of the Lansing Police Department, but will have 75% of his or her salary paid by D158, as the officer will spend roughly three quarters of his or her time serving the district. In the summer, the officer will help meet the needs of the Lansing Police Department in other ways.

A recent example that highlighted the need for such a presence in the schools, say D158 and LPD, is violence that occurred at Memorial Jr. High on April 7 when a handful of kids fought outside the school in what was called "mob action" by the school district. The fight injured two teachers, and the students involved were given 20 hours of community service by a Lansing hearing officer on May 5. The district has also implemented disciplinary actions against the students.

"SOMEBODY TO CONNECT WITH KIDS"

District 158 Superintendent Dr. Nathan Schilling feels that in the midst of nationwide calls to roll back police involvement in schools, a better alternative is to allow children to create positive relationships with police.

"It is super important to get somebody who can connect with kids, and really, that's more of a preventative thing.

...There is more of a need for a relationally-effective police officer in the schools now more than ever," Schilling said, adding that D158 already has effective social work and counseling staff in place, and the officer will be an extra layer on top of those services.

Lansing Police Chief Al Phillips believes the new officer will further promote the department's community policing efforts: "Lansing's always had a great reputation with the relationships with our police officers, especially going back to Mike Manno. Everybody knew Mike Manno from our DARE program, and we've had so many fantastic stories told about that. I want to get back to that," he said.

NOT JUST A FRIEND, AN AUTHORITY

Despite the relational aspect of the SRO, the officer will serve an authoritative role as well, responding to situations and bringing conflict resolution, investigative skills, and a strong physical presence to school incidents.

"If you're too friendly, then that is not going to have the level of supervision and accountability that's necessary sometimes to maintain order. But if you're not friendly enough, then it's going to look too directorial, too negative, too punitive, and you don't want that either. The goal of this is to really find that happy medium," Schilling said.

SELECTING AN OFFICER

Part of striking that happy medium will come in the selection process, and both District 158 and Lansing Police will be involved in interviewing candidates for the position. According to Chief Phillips, the SRO will be an existing officer at LPD who will transition into the new role.

"We're looking for people who know how to interact with people in a positive way, and also have the skillset to

de-escalate. ... We want somebody that can walk in there and they already have a relationship with the kids, so it's even easier," Phillips said, adding that he has several candidates already in mind.

DAY-TO-DAY

The SRO will be present throughout the school day at both Memorial and other D158 schools, overseeing pick-up and drop-off times and being nearby whenever help is needed. Additionally, Phillips said the SRO will likely teach a class educating youth on police-related matters.

In school-related discipline matters, the officer's role will be limited, Schilling said. For example, an officer won't be responsible for enforcing a school's cell phone or dress code policy. "Those types of things are administrative responsibilities," he said.

Chief Phillips hopes the D158 SRO will be significantly different from Detective Kiera Bogan's role at TF South. As the School Resource Officer at the much larger high school, Bogan is actively involved in investigations on a regular basis. Phillips hopes the SRO at D158 can be more relationship focused.

Beyond working at the school, the SRO will be called upon to do well-being checks at home if a student hasn't been seen or heard from, investigate residency issues in the district, or follow up on threats of violence to make sure a student doesn't have access to weapons.

"Those types of things are very uniquely beneficial coming from this position," Schilling said.

Pending final approval, the SRO will be in place to start the 2022-23 school year. ■

Four years in—Unity Christian Academy celebrates first graduating class

School looks forward to moving into larger South Holland building

BY JENNIFER YOS

SOUTH HOLLAND, Ill. (May 27, 2022) – Unity Christian Academy (UCA) is celebrating its four-year milestone as a south suburban Christian high school. The academy provides open-enrollment Christian education for students from the south suburbs of Chicago and beyond, and will graduate its first class of students in June.

CHANGING, GROWING

The South Holland school has enjoyed continual growth and positive changes since its August 2018 ribbon-cutting ceremony at the school's first location—the Calvary Church building at 16341 South Park Avenue.

In that opening year, the academy welcomed a class of 23 incoming freshmen. In its second school year, UCA's student population almost doubled to 41 students. In the 2020-21 school year, 53 students were enrolled, and in the current school year, UCA enrolled a record number of 82 students, with 45% growth expected for next year.

Because UCA's student population is growing, the Unity Christian Academy Board of Directors unanimously voted to bid on the Holy Ghost Church and School property—located at 170th and Cottage Grove in South Holland. On July 16, 2021, they closed on the purchase of what is to become the new campus of Unity Christian Academy. UCA hopes to complete the move to their new location in January of 2023.

CHRISTIAN MISSION

UCA's mission statement is "to empower a diverse community united by Christ to achieve excellence in edu-

cation for the flourishing of all creation." UCA's Head of School Neil Okuley elaborated: "We often say that we take faith in Jesus Christ seriously. We say that specific sentence because we have an open-enrollment policy, and so we want to be very clear with parents that when we're talking about matters of faith and spirituality, we are talking about Jesus."

Okuley noted that the academy's tagline for their Christian-based curriculum is "College. Career. Calling."

"...So we're going to be doing four years of prep work for career preparation," he explained, "and also just diving into the questions of who God is, who [the students] are, and how He has created them to work in this world."

TUITION STRUCTURE

UCA students come from varying socio-economic backgrounds, made possible by the academy's unique sliding-scale tuition rate. Currently, yearly tuition is 11% of a family's adjusted gross income, up to a maximum of \$11,000,

and with a minimum of \$2,200. Families currently enrolled reflect an economic bell curve with the average tuition just over \$5,000.

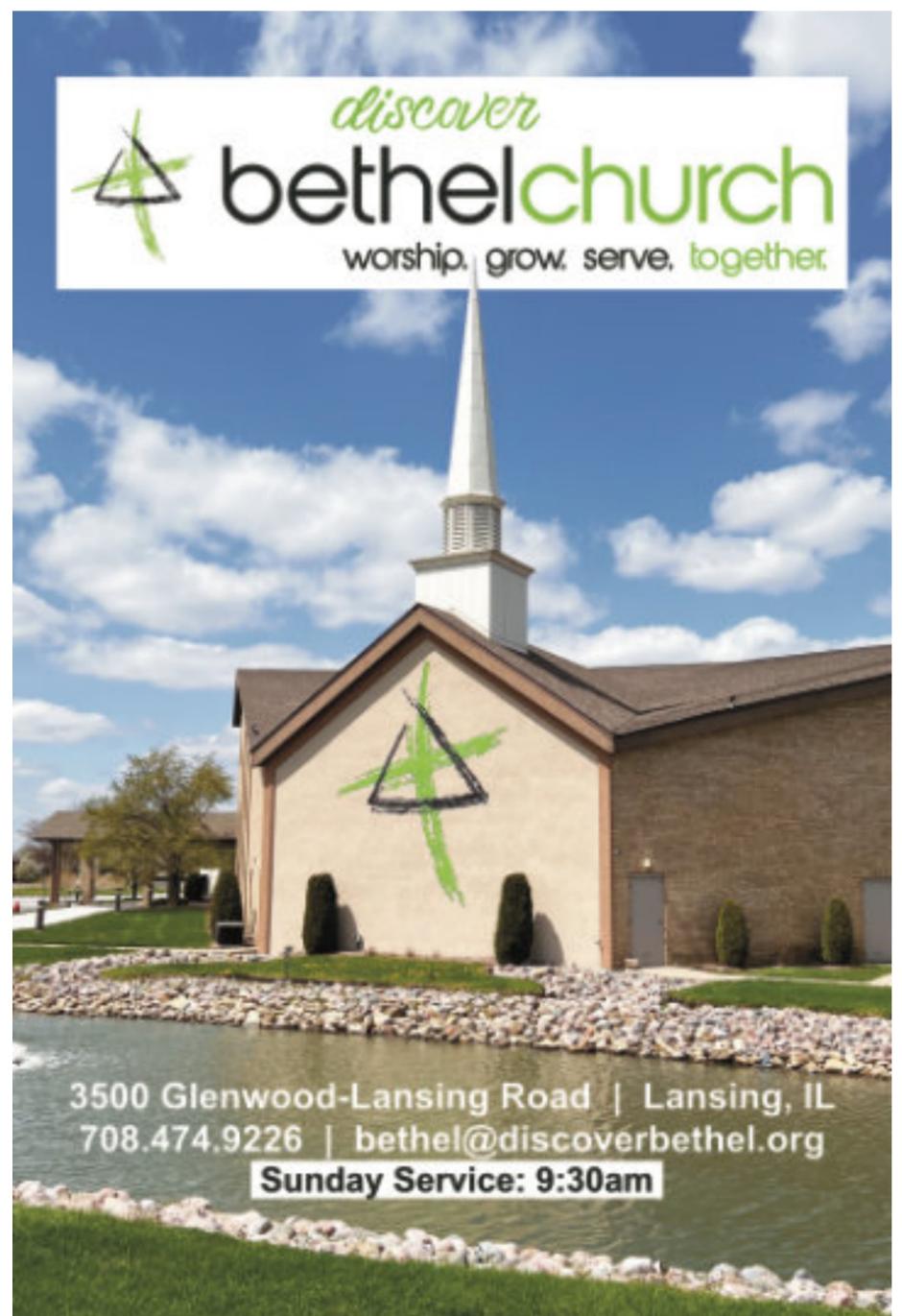
STRUCTURE OF LEARNING

UCA's school year consists of six modules, each lasting approximately six weeks. During each module, students

See "UCA," page 16



The future home of Unity Christian Academy is located at 700 E. 170th Street in South Holland, the former campus of Holy Ghost Church and School. (Photo: Jennifer Yos)



JOIN hundreds of local supporters

Various friends of The Lansing Journal who prefer to remain anonymous
 Lindsey and Saad Abbasy
 Karen Adams
 Jane and Joe Addison
 James and Kathleen Adduci
 Bill and Debbie Albrecht
 Judy Alderden
 American Legion Auxiliary
 American Legion Riders
 Adam Anhalt
 Rodrigo Arceo
 Anthony Arnold
 Kathy Arvia
 Donna Marshall Attinello
 Annmarie Aud
 Jennifer Avenatti
 Dave Badali
 Patrick Baker
 Nancy Bales
 Lorraine Banasiak
 Adam Barker
 Judith Beezhold
 Jeanne and Larry Benson
 Dan Bergan
 Priscilla Bergstedt
 Barry Bergstrom
 Nancy Besse
 Marlene Biesboer
 Gloria Biondi
 Phyllis Bischof
 Tony Blejski
 Wes and Joy Blocker
 Sally and Steve Blom
 Linda Blue
 Bob Boer
 Michael Bolz
 Janet Boomsma
 Vicky Booth
 Dan and Kristy Bootsma
 Josh Bootsma
 Debbie Boroviak
 Nancy Boukal
 Danielle Bovino
 Susan Bovino
 Geraldine Bowie
 Theresa Bresnahan
 Carla Bucci
 Joseph Bugajski
 Marsha Bultema
 Steven Burnap
 Kelly Burney
 Charlie Burton
 John and Elizabeth Bush
 Linda Buteyh
 Beverly Cable
 Scott and Bonnie Cable

Maria Cabrera
 Lynnne Cartwright
 Dan and Maryann Centracchio
 Christy Cheek
 Patricia Chiaramonte
 Chicago's Finest Ironworks
 Kathleen and William Clausing
 Laurel Clausing
 Briana Clifton
 Elly Clousing
 June and John Cole
 Greg and Jane Compeau
 Larry Conley
 Marlene Cook
 Ruth Cook
 Virginia Coppess
 Diane Costello
 Denise Cox
 Eric Crump
 Susan Culp
 Jeannine Cusson
 Kerry Czarowski
 Floret Daniels
 Lauragene Davia
 Fetima Davis
 Tricia DeBlock
 Christopher Deckinga
 Owen and Linda Deckinga
 Patricia Deckinga
 Dave and Deb DeJong
 Toni DeLaurentis
 Debbie DeNardo
 Deborah Dennis
 Geary Depue
 Rob and Sandy DeVries
 Stefanie DeYoung
 Terry Dombrowski
 LouAnn Dommer
 Lisa Doorn
 Joan Douma
 Phyllis Drevno
 Fran Duffy
 Barb Dust
 Richard Dust
 Don Dykstra
 Roseanne Dykstra
 Pamela Edrington
 Alexa Edwards
 Edwin H. Lugowski, Jr.,
 AIA, Architect
 Bud and Patty Eidam
 Martina Eldsmoe
 Daniel Engelbrecht
 Margaret Evans
 Sandra Farmer
 Frank Feters
 Fine Tune Auto
 Jennifer Fischer

Michelle Ford
 Bob Forner
 Kim Foster
 Janice Fox
 Pat Frederickson
 Marilyn Freeman
 Jim and Judy Friesema
 Tina Funchion
 Rebecca Furlong
 Debbie Furmanek
 Carol Gadbois
 Michael Gaffney

Ann Hickey
 Julie Hiskes
 Ted and Helen Hnatusko
 Marjorie Holme
 Mark Hornung
 Donna Huizenga
 Smilja Ivancevic
 Carol Jabaay
 Leroy Jansma
 Stephanie Jansma
 Jim Janssen
 Pat Jaracz

Diane Lund
 Lillian Luther
 Caleb Lyzenga
 Kathleen Maanum
 Doris Magnabosco
 Chris Mahoney
 Bob Malkas
 Nick Maloni
 Karen Manaa
 Chanta Manson
 Ed Marco
 Donna Marshall Attinello

Joanne Pritchard
 Rosalie Prystalski
 Lorraine Przybyl
 Sherlena Puyol
 Donna Pyritz
 Jean Qualls
 Janet Rehak
 Penelope Rellis
 Clarence and Joan Ridder
 Jim Ridder
 Mike and Kathleen Ridder
 Carla Rispens
 Rose Rivas
 Dan and Bethany Roels
 Bonnie Romanowski
 Charles Roseen
 Jane Roseen
 Jeff Rosinia
 Shirley Rucker
 Kristin Russell
 Jennifer Saia
 Dolores Samples
 Priscilla Sanchez
 Beverly Sanders
 Jenny Scanland
 Carol Schaap
 Rich and Jan Schaeffer
 Rudy Schaser
 Ann Schenkel
 Roberta Schopp-Coe
 Paul and Carol Schultz
 Sandy Schultz
 Schultz Insurance Agency
 Dave and Janice Schurman
 Pete and Shirley Schurman
 Barb Schwarz
 Beverly Schweitzer
 Roberta Scobbie
 Carolyn Scofield
 Patricia Seibel
 Irene Sepiol
 Robert Sharer
 Stephanie Sharp-Przekwas
 Robert Shimala
 Tanja Simic
 Freddie Simmons
 Tom Simnick
 Connie Simon
 Todd Simon
 Mike and Denise Skrbina
 Slaughter & Associates
 Micaela Smith
 Michelle Smith
 Frieda Smits
 Richard Smits
 Sons of the American Legion
 Reba Spilis
 Kelsee Stallinga
 Tom and Terri Stallinga
 Dan Stamper
 Kirstin Stellfox
 John Stewart
 Tara Stewart
 John Stole
 Stony Tire Incorporated
 Ada Stovall
 Kevin Suess
 Cindy Sulli
 Raymond Sutorius
 Jim Sweeney
 Victoria Szewczyk
 Carol Taylor
 Gerald and Sharon Taylor

Melissa Teller
 Debbie Terpstra
 Linda Todd
 Stella Torres
 Frank Trichak
 Jennifer Triezenberg
 Karen and Gammon Trimuel
 John and Virginia Ulaszek
 Leo Valencia
 Wendy Van Der Aa
 Rita Van Drunen
 Steve Van Ek
 Jill Van Kuiken
 James Van Milligen
 Carl and Janet Vander Molen
 Arlyn VanEk
 Martha Vargas
 Ken Varnes
 Gerrit Veenstra
 Irma Vela
 Tim Vermeer
 Jeri Villa
 Peg Vlietstra
 Karen Vrdolyak
 Bill and Sandy Vree
 Norm and Char Vugteveen
 Sandra Wagner
 Scott Wagner
 Gary Warfel
 Phyllis Warsen
 Waters Edge Aquascaping
 Jerry and Pat Wayman
 Paul West
 Jeff White
 Josie Whiting-Smith
 Dave Wilford
 Maureen Williamson
 Adrienne Winchester
 Nancy and Bob Wojcik
 Ron Wolford
 Robert and Jean Wood
 Dana Wood
 Jennifer Yos
 Patricia Yos
 Deborah Zadrozny
 Chris Zdanowski
 Nancy Zekveld
 Char Zralka
 Noel Zupancic
 Donald Zylstra

Thank You

COMMUNITY SUPPORT MAKES THIS COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER POSSIBLE

Jeff Gajewski
 Sandra Gangolf
 Christina Gaura
 Mary Gavin
 Sophie Gaylor
 John Gehring
 Geraldine Giglio
 Sharon Giles
 Debra Glidden
 Edward Gonzalez
 José Gonzalez
 Evelyn Gossman
 Jacob Gourley
 Dr. and Mrs. Jasper Gulotta
 Tony and Maureen Grady-Perovich
 Jennifer Gray
 Greg and Janet Gremba
 Cynthia Griffiths
 Patty Grigutis
 Jim and Roseann Grutzius
 Lawrence Grzywinski
 Joyce Haak
 Jerry and Judi Haan
 Renée Hale
 Marina Hallberg
 Cathy Hallow
 Carey Halsey
 Jim Hansen
 Peter and Jan Hansen
 Brian and Kathy Hardy
 Cam and Megan Harvey
 Agatha Hason
 Sally Haywood Larsen
 Andra Heneghan
 Beth Henning-Polizzatto

Robert Jaranowski
 Jeffrey John
 Ken and Becky Jongsma
 Melanie Jongsma
 Joe and Suzanne Jonkman
 Arlo and Brenda Kallemeyn
 Terry Kapteyn
 John and Carol Kapteyn
 Steve Kasper
 Jerome and Mary Kern
 Jim and Joann Kijewski
 Jean Klacik
 Nicole Kleidon
 Karen Kleine
 Frank Knittle
 Judy and Karl Koch
 Donna Kooyenga
 Linda Koselke
 Anita and John Kowalisynt
 Patricia Kremer
 Cynthia Krusza
 Mark and Missy Krygheld
 Shannon Krzeminski
 Jill Laboy
 Sue Lagestee
 Cheryl LaMar
 Pamela Lancy
 Desiree Lange
 Bruce Langman
 Lansing Junior Woman's Club
 David Larsen
 Laurene Lemanski
 Lisa Leonard
 Clem and Barb Lessner
 Michele Lewandowski
 Marek Morris Lewis
 Bev Lich
 Tom Lockton
 Judy Lohr-Safcik
 Jim and Suzanne Long
 John Long
 Luci Lugowski
 Rich and

Jean McCall
 Barbara McKinney
 Krista McSwiggan
 Tom McSwiggan
 Erin Meegan-Polanski
 Dehlia Mendoza
 Lynda Mendoza
 Roberto Mendoza
 Christine Merchat
 Marilyn Miller
 Dr. Wes Molenaar
 Martha Montiel
 Maureen Behrens Moon
 Tony and Jacqueline Mosley
 Joyce Mulder
 Marion Munnich
 Chuck Murach
 Roger Murphy
 Hollis Napoli
 Andre and Erin Nauta
 Alonzo Nichols
 Carolyn Nurdyke
 Nancy and Dennis Noworyta
 Angela Oldenkamp
 Marilou Ooms
 Grant Oppenhuus
 Bernadette Ott
 Gregory Ott
 Cathi and Mike Packard
 Don and Mary Beth Palka
 Katie Palka-Larson
 Tom Panichi
 Karen Parker
 Robert Parrent
 Libby and Tom Pasztor
 Vivian Payne
 Julie Peddy
 Moira Peterson
 Gabriel Pierce
 Susan Planer
 Anita Plebanski
 Kat Podgorski
 Richard Podgorski
 Rosemarie Polgar
 Jennifer Polley
 Jay and Chris Popp
 Robin Pottinger
 Dave Price

*
 We are grateful to serve a community of people who understand the value a community newspaper offers. To join these visionary patrons in making community news accessible to all, visit our Support page and make a gift online: thelansingjournal.com/support
 Or mail a check to The Lansing Journal, P.O. Box 742, Lansing IL 60438.
 Thank you!



HVAC Masters

HELPING BUSINESSES, SCHOOLS, CHURCHES, MUNICIPALITIES, WAREHOUSES, MANUFACTURING PLANTS, AND MORE

Germs are an invisible threat to workplaces and production lines. Contact HVAC Masters and **mention this ad** for a free inspection, so we can help you keep your workforce safer and healthier

★ SERVICE/INSTALL ★ BOILERS ★ CHILLERS ★ EXHAUST ★ PIPING ★ MAINTENANCE AGREEMENTS

Maintaining equipment is key to protecting your investment. Mention this ad for a free evaluation.

HVAC Masters, Inc.
Industrial and Commercial HVAC Services
 708-251-8773 • HVAC-MASTERS.com
 PO Box 774 • Lansing, IL 60438

HVAC Masters, Inc. is a Certified WBE company

HAVE A safe AND healthy SUMMER!



The Lansing Journal wins Sweetwater Award

Inaugural award recognizes excellence in advertising

LANSING, Ill. (May 13, 2022) - As part of a virtual conference for online news publishers, the first-ever Sweetwater Award was presented on Friday, May 13. The Lansing Journal was announced as the winner.

The award was initiated by Broadstreet, a digital advertising company that works with independent local news, magazine, and niche media. It was designed to recognize publishers who "go above and beyond in planning, running, and executing an ad campaign. Many publishing awards focus on the journalism side of things—this honors excellence in advertising."

"I've always appreciated that Broadstreet supports a culture of partnership, not just salesmanship," said Melanie Jongsma, Publisher of The Lansing Journal. The ad campaign that was submitted for the award was chosen not because of the creative artwork or a particular level of revenue, but because of the service provided to the client. The client in this case was South Suburban Heating and Air Conditioning.

"The Lansing Journal took sincere interest in the client and created campaigns according to their goals," said Broadstreet President Kenny Katzgrau while presenting the award. The Lansing Journal was one of three finalists for the award. County 10 (county10.com) of Fremont County, Wyoming, and Noozhawk (www.noozhawk.com) of Santa Barbara, California, also made the finals.

"I'm really proud of this award," said Jongsma in a Facebook post. "We work hard for our advertisers—just as we do for our readers—and it's nice to be recognized for that."

As winner of the Sweetwater Award, The Lansing Journal will receive an official Sweetwater Award 2022 digital seal for use on their website and media kit, an engraved trophy, and one free year of Broadstreet service.



THE LANSING JOURNAL PROVIDES AWARD-WINNING SERVICE TO READERS AS WELL AS ADVERTISERS. WE REPORT LOCAL NEWS EVERY DAY. SUBSCRIBERS RECEIVE THOSE HEADLINES IN THEIR EMAIL INBOX EACH MORNING. SCAN THE CODE TO SIGN UP—ALL WE NEED IS YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS.

More than a bike shop

Greenway Bikehouse aspires to be a Lansing destination

BY KAREN ABBOTT-TRIMUEL

LANSING, Ill. (May 27, 2022) – Greenway Bikehouse officially opened on April 6, 2022, at its temporary location inside Visible Music College, 3404 Lake Street. Owners Cam and Megan Harvey aspire to eventually move to Ridge Road and add a café for the Lansing community and bikers-by.

THE HARVEYS SWITCH GEARS

It was during the pandemic in 2020 that the Harveys often walked the Pennsy Greenway Trail in downtown Lansing with their son Zachary. On one of these walks, the pair began discussing businesses that would make a good investment in the downtown—a discussion that laid the foundation for what became a bike shop located in the heart of the village.

“We enjoy biking as a family. We’re not avid cyclists, but we enjoy it casually. It’s our way of getting out and being active together,” said Megan Harvey.

“With being more active on the trail, being downtown, and looking for investment opportunities, we found out about the location on Ridge,” Cam Harvey added. “Combining that with the closing of Troost [Coffee Shop] and finding out [3414 Ridge Road] had been acquired by the Village, we thought this would be too great of an opportunity to pass up. So, it wasn’t just about opening a bike shop; it was also about creating a space where people could come and experience the destination.”

GREENWAY BIKEHOUSE

Greenway currently sells new bikes and accessories, and provides a full-service repair center. The shop carries a broad range of brands such as Jamis, TerraTrike, Batch, Retro Spek, and Aventon. Bikes range in price from \$400 – \$5,000. Greenway also has bikes for children that run \$200 – \$400, and the business offers a trade-up program as the child grows. Pedal-less bike for kids are also available in 12”, 16”, and 24”.

While Cam is the bike shop operator, maintenance expert, and technical expertise, Megan manages marketing and social media.

“We look to play an intricate part in educating people about their bikes,” Megan said.

The Harveys are excited about providing an approach-

Right: Megan (left) and Cam Harvey have opened Greenway Bikehouse in Lansing, and plan to expand to add a café. (Photo: Karen Abbott Trimuel)

able space where they are available to answer questions and help people get their bikes out of their garages and sheds and back on the pavement.

RIDING TO RIDGE

On May 3, the Lansing Village Board approved three ordinances and one resolution to help the Harveys eventually bring Greenway Bikehouse to 3414 Ridge Road, at the high-visibility corner of Ridge and Henry Street.

Once at their new location, the Harveys’ vision is to add an adjacent coffee shop, walk-up window, patio, and the sale of beer and wine. The owners hope Greenway will be not only a recreational and retail space for Lansing, but a draw to the downtown Lansing area for gathering, relaxation, food, and exercise.

“One of our goals is to become community-centric and focus on the community. ...As we get into a stage where anxiety, depression, and other devices are prevalent, biking has a way of helping to relieve some of those ailments. I believe that we will positively impact the Lansing community,” Cam said.

Greenway will also provide other resources, such as trail maps, locations of restaurants, workshops on how to fix flat tires, and a loyalty program. The business also hopes to work with and support local bike clubs.

“I see Greenway as a business supporting our family and becoming a community pillar on the corner lot,” Megan Harvey said. “The future I envision is a place where people from the community gather and see friendly faces. It will be a good way to get active and get together with people.”

The Village Board approved a Tax Increment Financing redevelopment agreement for Greenway, a Class 8 Real



Estate Tax Assessment, a special use permit to allow for outdoor seating, and a Class 9 liquor license, which is for on-site beer and wine consumption.

GREENWAY GIVEAWAY, AND WORK OPPORTUNITIES

Greenway has a bike giveaway campaign underway. Participants can go to www.greenwaybikehouse.com, submit their email, and enter a drawing for a new bike. A winner will be announced in September.

The bikehouse is also looking for a manager to oversee their café, and they plan to further expand staffing at a later date.

Greenway Bikehouse is currently located in Visible Music College, at 3404 Lake Street in Lansing. More information is available at greenwaybikehouse.com. ■



Lansing Cleaners

18210 Torrence Ave • Lansing IL
(708) 474-2459

Family-owned for
over 75 years

20% off

ALL DRY CLEANING

Coupon must be presented when order is left for processing.

Garments must be picked up in 30 days or regular price prevails.

COUPON GOOD JUNE, JULY, AUGUST 2022 ONLY




Invested in helping you reach your goals.

At Thrivent, we believe money is a tool—not a goal. As a holistic financial services organization, and a membership-owned fraternal organization, providing financial advice, investments, insurance, banking and generosity programs, we are committed to helping you achieve financial clarity.

We are here to help provide the guidance you need to live the life you want.



Third Coast Group
3546 Ridge Road, Ste. 2B
Lansing, IL 60438
708-474-6015
thirdcoastgroup@thrivent.com
connect.thrivent.com/third-coast-group

28304 R7-20

Upscale entertainment restaurant KYNGZ hopes to open in Landings soon

BY KAREN ABBOTT-TRIMUEL

LANSING, Ill. (May 27, 2022) – When the idea of opening a restaurant together occurred to five local friends, they knew they would do more than just a restaurant—they wanted an upscale atmosphere and live music and entertainment. Now, KYNGZ partners David Nathaniel, Anthony Pratt, Larry Williams, Roosevelt Walker, and Martin Granberry are poised to open such a venue in the Landings area of north Lansing.

The fivesome are friends, some having had a long-lasting brotherhood since their early childhood days, and the opportunity to open an entertainment-oriented restaurant was too good to pass up. KYNGZ (pronounced “kings”) plans to go beyond the standard restaurant menu and offer its customers cuisine such as shrimp and grits, salmon croquettes, lobster, steak, lamb chops, filet mignon, and an extensive brunch menu.

MUCH IN A NAME

The first line of business was to come up with a name they would be proud of, and Pratt was honored to be assigned that task. “I was chosen to come up with the name. I thought about elevation and came up with the name KYNGZ. Each letter represents a point of elevation. So, it is more of an acronym of powerful words and not just a name. As KYNGZ, we don’t just aim to get to a pinnacle. We aim to continue elevating beyond our dreams. There is only room for growth and constant elevation,” said Pratt.

KYNGZ stands for Keystone (central part of a system), Yahweh (God, Allah, Father Above), Nimbus (a halo of splendor), Genesis (the origin of something), and Zenith (the highest point).

COMING TO LANSING

Some of the five are new to the restaurant business. Still, their resumes are vast, and they have an array of experience as college graduates, veterans, successful business owners, property investors and managers, and corporate leaders.

Their KYNGZ journey began in mid-2021 when they leased the space at 16731 Torrence Avenue, which used to house Old Country Buffet. The partners are working with the Village of Lansing in hopes of opening to the public soon. “We chose Lansing because of the opportunity, the space, location, and the room to grow,” stated Nathaniel.

LANSING OFFICIALS ASK QUESTIONS

On April 13, Pratt stood before the Lansing Planning and Zoning Board, making a Special Use Request to incorporate live entertainment into the restaurant. KYNGZ restaurant received a recommendation for approval, but the Planning and Zoning Board did express concern about the late closing hours (2 a.m. on Thursday through Saturday) and the plans to close from 5–7 p.m. when families usually dine. The Planning and Zoning Board also expressed concerns about security.

On May 3, Pratt stood before the Village Board to present his business plan in the hope of receiving Board approval for the special use. Trustees raised many of the same issues the Planning and Zoning Board had.

Pratt explained that he and his partners had adjusted their plans after hearing the concerns of Planning and Zoning. They adjusted opening hours to 10 a.m. instead of 7 a.m. and changed the shutdown time to 3–4 p.m. instead of 5–7 p.m. Pratt told the Board KYNGZ was still planning to close at 2 a.m. Thursday through Saturday.

Though Pratt’s amended changes were verbally presented, the Board expressed a desire to see the changes formalized in writing, as the plan Pratt shared differed from the one they had in front of them. Pratt agreed to provide the Trustees with the more current version of his business plan, which he had updated following the Planning and Zoning meeting.

DINING AND ENTERTAINING FOR GOOD

The KYNGZ partners are not only businessmen. They are also involved in nonprofit organizations that help feed and deliver resources to homeless people, facilitate youth community clean-up programs, provide shelter for battered women, and help families through back-to-school programs. They’ve also helped provide housing assistance to low-income families.

“We also plan to utilize our restaurant to give back to



From left: KYNGZ partners Larry Williams, Anthony Pratt, David Nathaniel, and Roosevelt Walker. Not pictured: Martin Granberry. (Photo: Karen Abbott-Trimuel)

the community by coordinating back-to-school drives and programs that will assist those less fortunate and participate in programs offered by the Village of Lansing where we can be of assistance and service. Our goal is to become an intricate part of Lansing,” said Nathaniel.

Williams said, “We all came from humble beginnings where we didn’t have much.... That’s what makes it important for us to do our part and share with those that are less fortunate because we were them, and we lived that.”

ENHANCING LANSING

KYNGZ hopes to be more than a restaurant. It wants to be a community within a community—a place where people can sit down and enjoy a good meal in a courteous and attentive environment.

“We want the opportunity to become a part of the Lansing family,” said Walker.

The partners also want to set an example for people who look like them. They want the community to know that committed people can build something from the ground up and become people of strength.

Before they open, the KYNGZ partners said they are looking forward to working with the Village of Lansing to ensure the Village is comfortable with their business plan, even if it means adjusting their weekend closing time. The Board anticipated having KYNGZ on their May 24 meeting agenda.

If approved, KYNGZ will open at 16731 Torrence Avenue, in the Landings shopping area. ■

GRABER. | DELIGHT IN EVERY DETAIL



\$75 CELLULAR SHADE REBATE
ON 3 GRABER CELLULAR SHADES.
RECEIVE \$25 REBATE FOR EACH ADDITIONAL SHADE (12 MAX)
THROUGH 7/15/2022

**BUT WAIT.. ALSO OFFERING
FREE CORLDESS LIFT**
*ON QUALIFYING SHADES.
THROUGH 6/30/2022

T O W N E

I N T E R I O R S

3219 RIDGE ROAD | LANSING, IL | 708-474-4260

Schultz Insurance

PROUDLY SERVING THE AREA SINCE 1923

SUMMER IS COMING!
Make sure your boats and RVs
are properly insured.

Call us for a quote
on all your insurance needs.



Schultz Insurance
18119 Torrence Avenue
Lansing, IL 60438
www.schultzinsurancelansing.com
708-474-1310

Policing the ‘world’s oldest profession’ in Lansing

Undercover officers, fake accounts, and strategic checks are all part of LPD’s response to prostitution

BY JOSH BOOTSMA

LANSING, Ill. (May 27, 2022) – From January through April of this year, Lansing Police Department officers have checked in on—or been called to—Lansing hotels over 1,500 times. Most of these visits are routine walk-throughs, well-being checks, or responses to disturbances. But sometimes officers go undercover in order to police the prostitution that is too common in Lansing hotels.

A CONSISTENT PROBLEM

Prostitution is illegal throughout the United States, with the exception of 10 counties in Nevada. Yet the practice continues, and as the world has evolved, the “oldest profession” has evolved as well.

Prostitution is a consistent problem in Lansing, usually taking place in one of the village’s 10 hotels, all located near the 80/94 expressway. LPD Detective Lieutenant Scott Bailey said since last summer, each prostitution sting in Lansing has resulted in 14 arrests, on average.

“We try to get these stings as often as we can. We do quite a few a year,” Bailey said, though he declined to share the exact number of stings that have occurred recently so as to not compromise the department’s covert approach.

STARTING ON THE INTERNET

The idea of bursting through a door and catching someone in a lascivious act is largely reserved for television, Bailey said. For its regular stings, Lansing collaborates on investigations with the Cook County Sheriff’s Vice Unit, which is dedicated to prostitution-curbing efforts.

The first step in a prostitution sting usually starts on



Lansing police make routine checks at the 10 hotels in Lansing to observe frequent vehicles, which can be an indication of prostitution or even pimp activity. Though chances are slim of stopping the “world’s oldest profession,” LPD at least hopes to convince perpetrators to take their business elsewhere. (Photo: Josh Bootsma)

the internet. An officer, either from the LPD or the Sheriff’s Office, uses any number of websites on the shadier parts of the internet to identify either johns (men looking for sex-related services) or prostitutes (someone offering sex-related services). Officers will sometimes create fake accounts on a website to pose as either a john or a prostitute to gather information.

“I’ve looked at some of [these sites] and I say, ‘Where do you even come up with this stuff?’” Bailey said. “It’s just crazy the different websites and communication sites that people go to to try to cover up what they’re doing. They go through all lengths and ways to try to get what they want.”

UNDERCOVER OPERATIONS

Police-initiated online interactions will bring johns or prostitutes to a specific Lansing hotel on a determined date during what’s typically an eight-hour period. From there, undercover operations come into play.

Depending on the focus of the sting, male officers may go undercover as johns, or female officers may go undercover as prostitutes.

“[The undercover officers] are witnesses when it comes to court proceedings on the activities that took place,” Bailey said.

Of the 14-arrests-per-sting average, the vast majority are johns. To arrest someone soliciting sex services, Lansing Police need evidence of both an intention and an act.

For example, if during a routine traffic stop an officer encounters someone that LPD has observed soliciting sex acts online, the officer cannot arrest that person for soliciting prostitution, as no action has been committed.

“There’s not much we can do as far as charging them for a sex act, but at least they now know that we know who they are,” Bailey said.

LPD’s arrests usually come before any sexual acts have been committed; if someone enters a hotel after arranging online to receive sexual services at that hotel, that’s enough to arrest them.

In one striking incident last year, LPD arrested a man as part of a sting operation, and then found he had three children waiting for him in his car. LPD contacted DCFS and the man was charged.

PROSTITUTION—AT WHAT COST?

There’s no consistent going rate for sex-related services, Bailey said. “It could be \$25, it could be couple hundred, to maybe a couple thousand. It can vary. It’s a wide range depending on who’s desperate, who wants it, and who knows how much money they can get.”

Bailey also said it’s not uncommon for drugs to be used in prostitution-related transactions.

The cost for those who

get caught is at least \$500 in the form of a municipal fee.

“We know we’re not going to stop this, because this is the oldest profession in history, but we’re doing what we can to deter this type of behavior here in Lansing. If they get a Lansing fine of \$500–750, hopefully they’ll take their business elsewhere,” Bailey said.

Beyond the Lansing fee, however, offenders could still be subject to additional fines through the Cook County legal system, as well as jail time. In Illinois, prostituting oneself is a Class A misdemeanor, which could result in up to a year in jail, and a fine of up to \$2,500. For a john, “solicitation of a sexual act” is also a Class A misdemeanor, while “patronizing a prostitute” is a Class 4 felony, punishable by 1–3 years in prison and up to \$25,000 in fines.

Bailey explained that while the easier targets are the johns and sometimes the prostitutes, the harder targets are the pimps, the ones who control and organize prostitution operations.

“It’s an organized crime when we’re dealing with prostitution,” he said. “You could have one individual renting out a few rooms, and keeping track of the rooms. That person may be working with someone else.”

Routine checks at hotels to observe frequent vehicles and individuals help combat this, as well as working with hotel management to consult room and vehicle records.

JUVENILES AND HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Unfortunately, the Lansing Police Department isn’t always responding to adults engaged in prostitution. Bailey said he’s been struck by how many juveniles LPD has come across in their sting operations.

“I’d say the majority—mostly all—of the juveniles we come across are on the prostitute end,” he said, adding that prostitution could look like an attractive option to someone who’s struggling early in life.

“Being so close to Chicago with poverty rates in some sections being so bad, coming to Lansing and staying in a hotel without a leaky ceiling, and you’re not getting rained on, and you’re not freezing to death, this is like coming to Disney World to some people. It’s a way of getting away from the worst, and people are doing what they need to do to survive,” Bailey said.

In some instances where suspected trafficking is involved, LPD works with federal investigators. “We partner up with the FBI when it comes to human trafficking because we’re so close to the Indiana border,” Bailey said, adding that Lansing hasn’t seen many human trafficking cases lately.

Minors involved in prostitution are not subject to fines or jail time.

DETERRENCE AND COMMUNITY HELP

In addition to investing time and effort into undercover police efforts, LPD also uses everyday deterrence methods. Police perform an average of 13 hotel visits a day, Bailey said, and those visits can include a wide variety of policing activities.

Officers will walk around buildings, chat with hotel staff, check in with managers, park squad cars in parking lots, and perform other activities to deter criminal activity in Lansing’s hotels. Sometimes something as standard as a seatbelt checkpoint on the street in front of a hotel can serve a secondary purpose to spook away johns, pimps, and prostitutes.

“We would love to eliminate it, and we’re doing everything we can do to keep it from happening not only on the prostitution end, from bringing people in to commit other criminal activity,” Bailey said.

While he believes most of the prostitution activity in Lansing comes from outside of town, Bailey hopes the community will contact LPD with any suspicious activity that they observe, such as frequent comings and going at an apartment complex, for example.

The Lansing Police Department is located at 2710 170th Street. The non-emergency number is 708-895-7150. ■

17th Annual Car Cruise In and Taco Dinner
Wednesday, June 29, 2022
4:30 - 7:00 p.m.

Car Registration starts at 4:00 p.m.

First 100 cars receive dash plaques

Bethel Church
3500 Glenwood-Lansing Road
Lansing, IL
708-474-9226
 (Directly north of the Lansing Airport)

Donations Welcome!

All donations go to Ukrainian refugees through World Renew.

Township-level politics get complicated following Zuccarelli death

Dolton Mayor Tiffany Henyard appointed as Thornton Township Supervisor

BY MELANIE JONGSMA

SOUTH HOLLAND, Ill. (May 18, 2022) - The January 3 death of long-time Thornton Township Supervisor Frank Zuccarelli set in motion a series of political maneuverings that resulted in Tiffany Henyard—who also serves as Mayor of Dolton—being appointed as Zuccarelli's replacement. About four-fifths of Lansing is in Thornton Township, with the remainder in Bloom.

A PROCESS MARKED BY INDECISION

According to state election law the Thornton Township board had 60 days to appoint a replacement to complete Zuccarelli's term. The main contenders for the appointment were widely believed to be Trustee Joyce Washington—because of her lengthy tenure and status as Interim Supervisor—and Trustee Jerry Jones. Thornton Township Assessor Cassandra Elston was another possible appointment. Elston said that Zuccarelli's intention was for her to succeed him, though he never documented his wishes.

At a March 1 board meeting, trustees spent three and a half hours voicing nominations, stalemating votes, retreating to closed-door sessions, and emerging only to deadlock again. At 10:25 p.m., Interim Supervisor Washington announced the meeting would recess and reconvene on Thursday, March 3, at 10:30 p.m. As then-Township Attorney Stanley Kuser explained, "A meeting requires 48 hours notice, and 48 hours from

now is [10:30 p.m. Thursday]." The board would then have 90 minutes to arrive at a decision before the midnight expiration of their 60 days. If trustees could not agree on an appointment, a special township meeting would be called, and township electors would choose a Supervisor.

A LAST-MINUTE NOMINATION

The March 3 special meeting began at 10:55 p.m., and in spite of the late hour, approximately 50 observers gathered in the basement of Thornton Township headquarters. Following the roll call and Pledge of Allegiance, trustees went directly into closed session. They returned at 11:14 p.m., and Clerk Loretta Wells called for nominations. What followed was a series of nominations, votes, and abstentions that included Jones, Washington, Elston, ZAP Director Stanley Brown, Terry Wells (mayor of Phoenix, IL, and husband of Township Clerk Loretta Wells), Illinois State Senator Napoleon Harris, and, at 11:48 p.m., Tiffany Henyard. The motion to nominate Henyard was made by Trustee Christopher Gonzalez, and Henyard was voted and sworn in minutes before midnight.

Though the name seemed random to many in the audience, Washington said after the meeting that Henyard had applied for the position "some time ago."

Gonzalez said he didn't want the Supervisor decision to be made by township electors. Though he had nominated Elston more than once and would have

preferred her appointment to the role, with time running out he nominated Henyard, believing a majority of the board would set aside their divisions and accept her before the midnight deadline.

CONTROVERSIES AND SUITS

Henyard was elected as Dolton's mayor in the April 6, 2021, election. In her first year on the job, she has been involved in multiple controversies, including the hiring of an inspector who is a sex offender, spending taxpayer money without board approval, and using Dolton police officers for personal security. At an April 4 meeting, a majority of Dolton trustees voted to file lawsuits against her.

"It's sad that we have to get to this point, that we have to go through court proceedings, as it's costing the Village money because of the negligence that leadership has [shown]," Dolton Trustee Kiana Belcher said, adding that Henyard "constantly violate[s] ordinances that have been put in place."

FOUR LAWSUITS

The Dolton Village Board consists of six trustees—Belcher, Jason House, Brittney Norwood, Edward Steave, Tammie Brown, and Andrew Holmes. All but Holmes voted to file the following lawsuits:

1. Quo Warranto, a process of questioning whether or not Henyard has a legal right to be both Thornton Township Supervisor and Mayor of Dolton, a municipality that is within the bounds of Thornton Township. "I

believe that's a conflict of interest," said Trustee House.

2. Lack of approval for hiring and firing.

Trustee House told The Lansing Journal that the Dolton Board passed an ordinance in 2021 stating any staff hirings or terminations were subject to the "advice and consent" of Trustees. "At this time, the Mayor has hired at least eight people, and terminated one person that we know of, without the advice and consent of the Board," House said.

3. Violation of the Freedom of Information Act.

The Dolton Clerk's Office is responsible for responding to Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests, but Clerk Alison Key explained that department heads and the Village administration have ignored her requests for information. "The FOIAs are not being taken seriously," Key said at the April 4 meeting. "Staff are being told not to comply with any FOIAs requested of them by the Clerk's Office."

4. Spending without board approval.

"We don't know what's being spent right now with Village and taxpayer money," said Trustee Steave. Board members estimate that Henyard has paid bills totaling \$2 million without their review or approval.

Previous lawsuit – personal security funding.

Trustee House also said the Dolton Board had expressed concerns regarding Henyard's "security detail," which the board believes is being funded by Dolton taxpayers. House said the board asked Henyard to justify her need for

such security. At an October 2021 Board meeting, Henyard said, "I'm a single mom with a two-year-old daughter. For you to even think about removing something like that from myself that's given to everyone in the nation—as it relates to when you're in politics—it comes with the title. It ain't nothing I just made up." Because they didn't receive adequate justification and transparency regarding the expense, the board filed this lawsuit in January.

RECALL VOTE

The matter of Henyard's mayorship will come before the Dolton public on June 28 in the form of a referendum for recall. Voters will have an option to vote yes for recall and then yes to recall Henyard as mayor.

"Ultimately, it comes down to a vote, which I feel is appropriate," said House. "The residents get the opportunity to make a vote on June 28 whether or not they are comfortable with the leadership and the direction."

Early voting begins May 19. Henyard has not replied to any requests from The Lansing Journal for comment. ■

To stay informed about local elected officials whose decisions impact our community, subscribe to The Lansing Journal online. Scan the QR code or visit thelansingjournal.com/subscribe.



Summer Reading Program

June 6—July 30

- PreK ages 0-5
- Elementary K-5th
- Teen 6th-12th
- Adult ages 18+

THIS SUMMER Go Beyond the Beaten Path at the Lansing Public Library



Track reading minutes to win awesome prizes that are off the beaten path.

Attend programs that engage your interests!

- Storytime, crafts, and huge STEAM experiments
- Camp Library, on June 25, featuring 123Andres music duo
- Movies on the library lawn
- Special guests including Chicago Zoological Society, Cody Clark Magic, and Illinois Library Presents
- Special nature walks in partnership with Sandridge Nature Center
- Get back on the path with programs including financial planning and computer learning
- Adult game days at the library and in the community



SCAN here or check us out at lansingpl.org

LPD says recreational scanner-listening will be a thing of the past

BY JOSH BOOTSMA

LANSING, Ill. (May 27, 2022) – For years, curious residents with access to a radio scanner have been able to hear Lansing's officers be dispatched, relay information, and respond to sensitive situations, a reality that will soon change. The Lansing Police Department plans to switch all of its communications this year from radio airwaves to a digital format.

According to LPD Supervisor of Communications and Records Brian Weis, Lansing and Calumet City are the only two municipalities in the area that have not already converted their systems to digital.

OFFICER SAFETY

A primary reason for the change, says Weis, is to protect Lansing's officers.

"I'm sure we've had instances where somebody commits a crime, and they can

hear us. [And they say,] 'They're sending people to our address, let's get out of here,'" he said.

On this point, Lansing Police Chief Al Phillips said, "We've had people call in decoy calls at the north end of town so they can do something on the south end of town. And they know it's happening because they're hearing us dispatch, 'Every unit go,' and now they know they're safe for at least 10 minutes."

ACCURACY AND SECURITY

The Lansing Police Department responds to situations in real time, and often the initial information shared over the radio isn't a full picture of what's happening. But a listener on a police scanner might not realize this, Weis points out.

For example, it is not uncommon for LPD to receive "shots fired" calls in the summer that turn out to be fireworks. A

listener might share information about gunshots on Facebook, however, because that's what they heard on their scanner.

The new digital system will prevent that kind of misinformation from being shared.

"We're not looking to hide things. We're just looking for more accuracy," Chief Phillips said.

Lansing's digital communications will also allow the village to communicate more easily with other departments, such as the Cook County Sheriff, Illinois State Police, or surrounding agencies.

IMPLEMENTATION

In the coming months, digital communications equipment will be placed on village property such as water towers. Though supply issues have backed up the industry, Weis hopes to have the digital system in place before the end of 2022.

"We do sympathize with the people that

appreciate listening to us. We're sorry that that has to go away, but it does have to go away. There's other ways to keep up to date," Phillips said.

One of those ways is to attend quarterly community policing meetings, which are the updated version of beat meetings. The remaining 2022 meetings will take place on June 2, September 1, and December 1 at 6:30 p.m. in the Lansing Courtroom, 2710 170th Street.

Residents can also follow the Lansing Police Department on Facebook (www.facebook.com/LansingPD), and subscribe to The Lansing Journal, which reports verified information about police activity in Lansing. Visit thelansingjournal.com/subscribe to sign up. ■

"FOX POINTE," from page 1

"Then the headliner will go 7:30 to 9:30, a straight set. This is nice because they won't take the break at 8:15," said Fox Pointe Director Tony Troncozo, explaining that in past years the intermission at 8:15 was often a point when some of the crowd would leave.

"If you've got a good band and they're cooking, people will say, 'Oh we'll stay to the end, it's only 9:30.' That's what we're shooting for; that's the change there," Troncozo said.

IN-HOUSE FOOD, DRINKS, AND SOUVENIR ITEMS

This season will be the first to use the fully-realized Fox Pointe kitchen and concession stand. Though selling drinks has been a staple of the venue from the start, providing food has largely been through partnerships with local vendors and caterers.

Ace Catering is now the primary food provider at Fox Pointe. They will use the new kitchen space to create a variety of food offerings, including standard concert fare like burgers, hot dogs, and sandwiches, as well as more specialty items, which will be tested throughout the season.

"We will have set items, and then Ray [Kosinski, owner of Ace Catering] will flex some items in certain weeks," said Reynolds. "We are finalizing what that signature menu is going to be."

Guests wanting to purchase alcohol will follow the same pattern as last year by waiting at one of the three windows designated for drinks, a system that was streamlined in 2021 compared to the slower lines of 2019. There will also be a beverage cart in the northwest corner of Fox Pointe, and the pavilion area will often host a specialty vendor for items like desserts.

Near the entrance to the venue, guests will now have opportunity to purchase four souvenir items: Sweatshirts, t-shirts, koozies for cups and drinks, and glow necklaces.

SPECIAL EVENTS IN 2022

Beyond Wednesday nights, Fox Pointe will reprise many of its events from last year, including Cruise Night concerts; a local band showcase; National Night Out; Blues, Brews & BBQs Fest; Autumn Fest; and a Halloween event.

New events this year will be July's three-day Palooza at the Pointe and August's Cheeseburger in Paradise event. These large events will be the first in Fox Pointe's short history to charge a small fee for attendance.

PARKING, BIKING, AND SMALL NEW ADDITIONS

Although a new Fox Pointe parking lot northwest of the venue has been anticipated for over a year, construction has not yet started, and the lot will likely not be com-

pleted until next season. The Village of Lansing has been working with the Midwest Water Reclamation District on the project, and meeting the environmentally-friendly qualifications of the project has delayed the process.

Those driving to Fox Pointe this year will have the same parking options as last year, including the Clocktower Plaza lot northwest of the venue, the Santa House lot to the north, the post office lot to the west and south, the Firefighters Memorial lot to the southeast, and others. Though parking on side streets in the area is allowed, parking in municipal lots is recommended. A full list of parking options is available at foxpointe.org/parking.

The venue, which intersects the Pennsy Greenway, also has a dozen bike racks on its south side where riders can tether their bikes during a concert.

Other small additions to the venue include: awnings near the concession windows to combat the bright summer sun, an ornamental iron display in the center gate area of the venue showing the Fox Pointe logo, and new Fox Pointe banners displayed around the venue.

"This is the first year we've gone back to back with actual programming," Reynolds said. "I'm confident in this, that at the end of this event season, we will have had a solid '21, a solid '22, and we'll be able to say, 'What are we?' And we will really start to establish ourselves as being in this industry." ■



POUR ON ROY

WINE BAR

WINE WEDNESDAY

CELEBRATE THE MIDDLE OF THE WEEK WITH HALF PRICE BOTTLES OF WINE EVERY WEDNESDAY! [EXCLUDES RESERVES]

HOURS

TUES-THURS: NOON-10PM

FRI-SAT: NOON-11PM

MON-SUN: CLOSED



HOST YOUR EVENT WITH US!

VISIT POURONROY.COM FOR MORE RENTAL INFORMATION

18155 ROY STREET
LANSING, IL 60438
(708) 858-2181

  @pouaronroy



**GET
TO THE
POINTE!**



2022 EVENT SCHEDULE

June 1
*Hello Weekend**

June 8
*Blackberry Jam**

June 11
Soul Sacrifice
Cruise Night Concert

June 15
*Funky Mojo Daddy**

June 22
*Southern Accents**

June 29
*One of These Nights**

July 9
Local Band Showcase

July 13
*Hairbangers Ball**

July 15-17
Palooza at the Pointe
admission fee required

July 22
*Northwest Indiana
Symphony*

July 27
*Sixteen Candles**

August 2
National Night Out
Lansing Police
Department

August 3
*Dick Diamond
and the Dusters**

August 12-13
*Blues, Brews &
BBQ Fest*
admission fee required

August 17
*Libido Funk Circus**

August 20
*Cheeseburger
in Paradise*
admission fee required

August 24
*BBI**

August 31
*Maggie Speaks**

September 7
Little Giant
and Cloud Nine**

September 23-24
L.A.C.E. Autumn Fest

October 29
*Fox Pointe
Trick or Treat*

December 3
Holiday Tree Lighting

**Gates open at 6:00 p.m.
for our Wednesday
Concert Series.
Live music from
6:00 to 7 p.m.
Headlining acts
begin at 7:30 p.m*

FOXPOINTE.ORG

18138 Henry Street • Lansing IL 60438 • 708-895-7204

2022 at Fox Pointe in Lansing

Your guide to a season of music, food, and family-friendly fun

BY JAMILYN HISKES

LANSING, Ill. (May 24, 2022) – Summer in Lansing means live entertainment returns to Fox Pointe. Here's a preview of this season's artist line-up:

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 1:

Hello Weekend

OPENING ACT: JACK ADAMS | Hello Weekend rocked the Fox Pointe stage last summer, and they're coming back to do it again. With a high-energy sound and a catalog that includes hits from modern artists as well as classic rock groups, they are sure to kick off the summer in style. More information is available at www.helloweekendmusic.com.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 8:

Blackberry Jam

OPENING ACT: BRIAN MUNDY | If you like crooned southern rock classics, look no further—Blackberry Jam could be your jam. This Chicago-based band has played at a number of festivals across Illinois and will be bringing their "guitar-driven" sound to Lansing as part of the Wednesday-night concert series. More information is available on their Facebook page: [facebook.com/BlackberryJamChicago](https://www.facebook.com/BlackberryJamChicago).

SATURDAY, JUNE 11 (CRUISE NIGHT):

Soul Sacrifice

Soul Sacrifice is known throughout the Pacific Northwest as the premier Santana tribute band. Covering hits from the entire expanse of Santana's discography, this group is scheduled to bring a sultry, smooth vibe to Lansing's first 2022 Cruise Night. More information about the group is available at thesoulsacrificeband.com. Cruise Night takes place along Ridge Road in downtown Lansing.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 15:

Funky MoJo Daddy

OPENING ACT: LAUREN DUKES | When the blues come to Lansing, the whole town has a great time. Chicago's own blues rock supergroup Funky Mojo Daddy stopped by Fox Pointe during last year's Blues, Brews & BBQ Fest, and they're sure to be just as big a hit this time around. To hear some of their tunes, check out their ReverbNation profile at www.reverbNation.com/funkymojo daddy.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 22:

Southern Accents

OPENING ACT: AARON HARRIS | Coming all the way from Nashville, Tenn., Southern Accents is "the ultimate Tom Petty & The Heartbreakers Tribute Band." With an outstanding stage presence and an otherworldly ability to recreate some of the most-loved songs of all time, this band is sure to break our hearts in the best way. More information can be found at southernaccentsband.com.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 29:

One of These Nights

OPENING ACT: MIKE YOUNG | According to their website, "One of These Nights does not simply play the music of The Eagles, they become The Eagles." This band is known around the Chicagoland area and throughout the country for their 2-hour "note-for-note" recreation of countless hits by The Eagles and its individual members. They're sure to put on another great Fox Pointe show this year. More info is available at oneofthesenightsband.com.

SATURDAY, JULY 9 (CRUISE NIGHT):

Local Band Showcase

Pairing with Cruise Night, Fox Pointe's Local Band Showcase will again highlight five local bands in a music-filled marathon from 3–10:30 p.m. The event is free, and will be run similarly to the Wednesday-night concerts.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 13:

Hairbangers Ball

OPENING ACT: JACK ADAMS | As another veteran act at Fox Pointe, Hairbangers Ball knows what it takes to get the town pumped up. Playing all the great hits from the 1980s, this band marries the hair and the style of an



Crowd favorite Dick Diamond and the Dusters performed in 2019 and in 2021 (shown here), and they are scheduled to return in 2022 for an August 3 show. (Photo: Melanie Jongsma)

iconic decade with an irresistible rockin' soundtrack. For more information, visit hairbangersball.com.

JULY 15–17:

Palooza at the Pointe

In what the Village of Lansing hopes will be a "signature fest" at Fox Pointe, Palooza at the Pointe will host a wide variety of musical acts, ranging from classic rock, to big band, to pop music aimed at the teenage crowd. A second stage will be set up on the north lawn as well. The family-friendly event will also feature a video gaming truck and other activities for kids. Multiple food vendors will be present throughout the three-day event, and a small fee will be charged for entry.

FRIDAY, JULY 22:

NWI Symphony Orchestra

A great classical concert can be an otherworldly experience. That's what the Northwest Indiana Symphony provided last year when they visited Fox Pointe, and we're looking forward to being uplifted by their skill and artistry again. More information can be found at www.nisorchestra.org.

Congratulations!

TF North & TF South

CLASS OF

2022

Best wishes from the District 215 Board of Education
 Andrea Ballard, Dr. Christopher Dodd, Richard Dust,
 Diana Jackson, Rita Oberman, Morgan Waller, Marcie Wilson

Thornton Fractional
 HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 215
 BURNHAM-CALUMET CITY-LANSING-LYNWOOD

WEDNESDAY, JULY 27:
Sixteen Candles

OPENING ACT: AARON HARRIS | Another Fox Pointe veteran act is returning to Lansing to rock. Formed in 2003, Sixteen Candles has toured the country playing their catalog of beloved '80s hits for almost 20 years. More information: sixteencandlesband.com.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 2:
National Night Out

A nationwide event, Fox Pointe's version of National Night Out will again invite the community to connect with the Lansing Police Department. In 2021, the event included free food, raffle prizes, a dunk tank, a K-9 demonstration, a bouncy house, face painting, and other activities for local families.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 3:
Dick Diamond and the Dusters

OPENING ACT: MIKE YOUNG | This band has become a staple of Fox Pointe's summer line-up over the years, and they're returning to Lansing for another night of playing hits from the '60s to present day. But as their website says, their shows aren't just about the music. Costumes, fictitious characters, and "shenanigans" are just some of what you can expect from Dick Diamond and the Dusters. More information is available at www.dickdiamond.net.

AUGUST 12-13:
Blues, Brews, and BBQs

This year will be the third iteration of this fest, which has seen success in 2019 and 2021. What makes this event unique is in the name: multiple blues bands and

musicians will perform, a variety of beer options will be available, and barbecue can be bought from a few local vendors. In a change from last year, there will be a small fee charged for this event.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 17:
Libido Funk Circus

OPENING ACT: JAKE ADAMS | If there's any band that will put on a show with a little something for everyone, it's Libido Funk Circus. What started as a disco-themed cover band in 1996 has evolved into an eclectic, multi-genre group that "loves a good show." Enjoy hours of flashy clothing and fun music. Visit lfcertainment.com.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 20:
Cheeseburger in Paradise

Calling all Parrotheads! This event is resurrected from decades past in Lansing. Guests purchasing a ticket to Cheeseburger in Paradise will not only be securing a burger and a seat to watch Gone to Paradise, a Jimmy Buffett tribute band, they will be supporting a local charity as well. The event will run from 5 p.m. until at least 10 p.m., with Gone to Paradise being one of two bands performing. The ticket price for this event will cover food and go towards supporting a local non-profit.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 24:
BBI

OPENING ACT: MIKE YOUNG | This five-piece act has played multiple special events, casinos, and fairs, and now they're gracing the Fox Pointe stage. Get ready to groove with classic and modern hits performed with talent and passion. As their website says, "BBI connects with their audience in the most fundamental way: inspiring people to have a good time!" More information available at www.bbilive.com.



Fox Pointe's 2022 season ends with Autumn Fest, a Lansing tradition that is fun for all ages. (Photo: Melanie Jongsma)

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 31:
Maggie Speaks

OPENING ACT: AARON HARRIS | It's a thrill to welcome back to Lansing the wide-ranging talent of Maggie Speaks, a world-renowned cover band. Any classic or contemporary hit is fair game for this group. They're sure to put on another show that can be heard from the state line! More information at maggiespeaks.com.

SEPTEMBER 7:
Little Giant and Cloud 9

The pairing of these two bands is sure to leave Lansing well-rocked at the end of the summer concert series. Little Giant is a '60s and '70s rock-inspired group with deep Chicago roots whose ultimate goal is "to 'Keep Alive' the music and memories from our past" through music. Cloud 9 furthers that goal with their massive catalog of hits from the past 70 years, with a strong focus on good ol' rock-and-roll. More information: littlegiantband.com and www.cloud9band.com.

FRIDAY AND SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 23-24:
Autumn Fest

Autumn Fest returns to Fox Pointe this year for two days instead of three. This is the Lansing event that put Fox Pointe on the map, and it includes games, shows, a military tribute, and a marketplace of local artisans.

Fox Pointe is located at 18138 Henry Street in Lansing, Illinois. Current information about the venue and this season's events is available at www.foxpointe.org. ■



Left: The Northwest Indiana Symphony brought a Ravinia vibe to Lansing in 2021. (Photo: Melanie Jongsma)

- What are they building on Torrence? Like Reply
- Is there a dog park in Lansing? Like Reply
- What is this week's Fox Pointe concert? Like Reply
- When is the next Cruise Night? Like Reply
- Was that a gunshot I heard? Like Reply
- Where is my polling place? Like Reply
- Who's on the school board?

Support the newspaper that provides local answers



Facts, not opinions. Research, not rumors. News that keeps you informed and connected.

But we need your help to keep reporting. Scan the code to give today → Or visit thelansingjournal.com/support



First United Methodist Church
Join us Sundays
9:45am
18420 Burnham Ave
708-474-1144
fumclansing.org

EXPERIENCE. THE DIFFERENCE.

Hallow Homes
ILLINOIS - INDIANA
708-895-5701
Lansing office
Serving IL and IN
cathy@hallowhomes.com

30 YEARS
of award-winning service for buyers and sellers:
708-895-5701

Lansing school serves as memorial to fallen military

BY CARRIE STEINWEG

LANSING, Ill. (May 27, 2022) – Many schools around the country are named for significant people such as presidents, community leaders, or school officials. In the case of Memorial Junior High, the school honors a whole generation of young men and women who answered the call to defend and serve their country, and who gave their lives in that service.

SCHOOLS AND WARTIME

Lansing's first school dated back to the 1890s and was known as the Indiana Avenue School. Once a high school was built in Calumet City, Lansing students went there to complete their education. Coolidge School was added in 1928, but the increased industrial activity in the area during World War II led to overcrowding in the schools. School District 158 remedied the situation temporarily by renting rooms at Douglas School in Calumet City. Seventh and eighth graders attended classes there during World War II.

District 158 had purchased land in an area known as Ward's Fields as the site of a future school. Because the growth in population was attributed to the war effort, construction of the building was financed by the Federal Works Administration at a cost of \$100,000. In 1947, the school board bought the building—named Memorial Junior High School—from the federal government for \$14,000.

A SCHOOL AND A MEMORIAL

As the timing of building the school coincided with the era of the Greatest Generation, the school was named with the young local soldiers in mind who did not make it home from World War II. It has since served as a reminder, too, of those who have served and been lost in subsequent wars.

According to Lansing Historical Society curator Barbara Dust, Memorial Day parades once took place in Lansing, and those parades ended at Memorial Junior



The monument in front of Memorial Junior High School is engraved with this inscription: "Dedicated to the honor and sacrifice of our men and women who served our country. * * * Let none forget / they gave their all / and faltered not / when came the call." (Photo: Josh Bootsma)

High School for a community ceremony. Dust's daughters marched in the parade as members of the Memorial Junior High School marching band.

ANSWERING THE CALL

"Answering the call" is part of the inscription on the monument in front of the school, and it has become a theme that District 158 Superintendent Dr. Nathan Schilling uses when addressing students. In 2019, at the last pre-pandemic graduation ceremony, Schilling recited the inscription: "Let none forget / they gave their all / and faltered not / when came the call." He added, "This statement was made with respect to our veterans, but tonight, graduates, it also applies to you."

"Students, you may be hearing the call right now," Schilling continued. "To graduate. To get your diploma. To start your summer vacation. To start high school. To

think about what college you may want to attend or what career you're interested in pursuing. These are all good thoughts, and I am confident that District 158 has prepared you well for future success."

He then encouraged the students to "remember also the first part of Memorial's poem: 'Let none forget they gave their all...!' This means to never give up. Work hard. Be committed to a task, and see it through to the end. ...This is the message I want you to leave with tonight, the true spirit of the Mighty Mustang. Answer the call, give your all, and never give up no matter what."

CONTINUING TO HONOR THE FALLEN

Dr. Keli Ross is principal of Memorial Junior High School. She has family members who served in the military and family members who are currently enlisted. Ross says she is proud to work at a school with such significant ties to our nation's commitment to democracy.

"I have noticed the reverence held in the community for the war memorial monument located in front of Memorial Junior High School," said Ross. "On occasion, it has been donned with wreaths to honor and recognize those who have dedicated their life to serving our country. Often on Memorial Day, ceremonies are held by the monument as a way to remember our fallen servicemen and servicewomen over the years. Our Mighty Mustangs Memorial school band has performed the National Anthem at many of these events."

"I am proud to work at a school that honors and commemorates the important sacrifices and commitment displayed by our armed forces."

Memorial Junior High School is located at 2721 Ridge Road in Lansing. The stone monument stands to the north of the parking lot and is accessible by the public 24 hours a day. ■

LANGE ROOFING

Covering Lansing since 1950

Ask about our 5% military discount on any roofing service

<p style="font-size: 1.5em; color: red; margin: 0;">\$200 OFF</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em; margin: 0;">any roof over \$5,000</p> <p style="font-size: 1.2em; color: red; margin: 0;">LANGE ROOFING</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em; margin: 0;">(708) 474-3255</p> <p style="font-size: 0.7em; margin: 0;">COUPON VALID JUNE, JULY, AUGUST 2022</p>	<p style="font-size: 1.5em; color: red; margin: 0;">\$400 OFF</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em; margin: 0;">any roof over \$10,000</p> <p style="font-size: 1.2em; color: red; margin: 0;">LANGE ROOFING</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em; margin: 0;">(708) 474-3255</p> <p style="font-size: 0.7em; margin: 0;">COUPON VALID JUNE, JULY, AUGUST 2022</p>
---	--

What Medicare Plan Covers Dentures?

Need Dentures?

Come in for a FREE consultation!

On Medicare?

We accept Aetna Medicare Advantage PPO, United Healthcare Medicare Advantage PPO, Humana Gold, BlueCross Medicare Advantage, and AARP through Delta.

Call today!

APPLE DENTISTRY

708-895-0724

mariaosantopala.com • 2457 Ridge Rd, Lansing, IL



At the 2019 block party, an impressive crowd of Lansing residents engaged with one another on the library's front lawn and on Indiana Avenue. (Photo: Jennifer Yos)

Lansing Public Library resumes fun activities for Summer 2022

BY KATIE ARVIA

LANSING, Ill. (May 19, 2022) – The cornerstone summer reading program will return to the Lansing Public Library this year. Participants of all ages are invited to join the fun. Four different program levels are available, including Pre-K (babies to Pre-K), Elementary (kindergarten to fifth grade), Teen (sixth to 12th grade), and Adult. The program is free for all participants.

STARTING WITH A BLOCK PARTY

"We are excited to resume a more regular summer at Lansing Public Library," said Beth Bozzo, Head of Youth and Teen Services. "Our summer reading program kicks off with our annual block party on Friday, June 3, from 6-8 p.m. There will be lots of fun, free activities available. Pizza and snacks will be available to purchase, and the funds will benefit the Friends of the Library."

The summer reading program will take place June 6 through July 30. Bozzo explained that reading minutes will be tracked through the Beanstack app or a paper log. Electronic badges are awarded for completing the required number of reading minutes. Each badge earns a raffle ticket toward a chance to win a large prize and a small reward at the library. In addition to fun and prizes, summer reading also helps students stay on track during the summer.

"Summer reading is especially important for the 0-18 age range.

Early literacy is vital, and studies show that children that have books in the home go on to complete more education. Summer reading challenges benefit school-aged children by preventing summer slide, which is the loss of learning that can occur over summer break," Bozzo said.

OTHER LIBRARY FUN

In addition to the reading program, the library has other fun events planned for this summer. On June 25, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., the library will host Camp Library at Fox Pointe. Bozzo said this program will be "all the fun of a camping trip without the any of the hassle." Fun camping games, crafts, and music will all be included. The Grammy award-winning duo 123 Andres will take the stage at 3 p.m. The Fox Pointe concession stands will be open with food and drinks available for purchase.

The Mobile Library Book Runner will also be active this summer. "This year we will be getting out into the community several times each week. We have our 'Mobile Library Book Runner' scheduled to be at parks and Fox Pointe events throughout the summer. We'll bring the library to you," Bozzo explained.

The summer reading program, Camp Library, and the Mobile Library Book Runner are just a few of the programs and events the library offers year-round.

Bozzo, who has memories of participating in summer reading programs herself, said, "We hope that participants will come away knowing more about the services and programs that the library offers. We are a free, vital resource in the community, and we love connecting patrons with their next great read or the resources they need."

The Lansing Public Library is located at 2750 Indiana Avenue. More information about summer reading and other offerings at the library is available at www.lansingpl.org.

Don't miss another day of local news!

Scan this code to subscribe to The Lansing Journal today.

Or visit thelansingjournal.com/subscribe



Arbor Care
PIEKARSKI & SONS
 TREE SERVICE
708-895-8891
www.PiekarskiTree.com
 Tree Removal • Tree Trimming
 Stump Grinding • Lot Clearing
 Emergency Treework
 Licensed, Bonded, Insured

Mulch Masters
708-889-9600
 Colored • Premium Hardwood • Playground
 Mulches and More
www.MulchMasters.com

FINE TUNE
AUTO SERVICE
 Home of the \$49.95 Synthetic Oil Change

17546 Chicago Ave • Lansing, IL • 708-480-1721

- Change motor oil
- Replace oil filter
- Lubricate fittings
- Correct fluid levels
- Check tire pressure
- Up to 5 qts 5W-30 full synthetic oil
- Free 27-point inspection

Mention this coupon when requesting appointment

\$49.95
Synthetic Oil Change

Some exclusions apply • Limited time offer
FINE TUNE AUTO SERVICE
 17546 Chicago Ave • Lansing, IL
 708-480-1721

“UCA,” from page 4

take four classes at a time so that they can focus on in-depth learning and have the time to produce higher quality work. In addition to college prep core classes, UCA's four-year curriculum includes eight Bible and theology courses, plus a 50-minute weekly chapel format that includes time for testimony, for corporately learning songs, and for hearing the Bible preached.

“But then faith is formed in so many other areas,” Okuley added. “Every Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday, our students get to meet in small groups with a member of the faculty. And, of course, while we're an open-enrollment school, we explicitly hire men and women who made the decision for themselves that they are followers of Jesus. And so, it is [in] the most informal interactions that faith talks.”

One part of UCA's career preparation is the internship program, in which seniors are matched—based on their career interests—with businesses and institutions to serve as interns for six weeks. The program has evolved in the last couple of years, and is now intended to be a



This rendering by AMDG Architects gives an aerial view of the proposed Unity Christian Academy campus, following the renovation of the former Holy Ghost School building. (Graphic provided)

four-year sequence. This year, freshmen started investigating career clusters they are interested in, and by the time they become seniors, UCA will find a business partner to match their interests. The Lansing Journal hosted UCA senior Landon Ford last fall as an intern.

UCA students are also encouraged to take at least one high-quality online course before they graduate in order to become independent learners, engage in studies that excite them, and maximize their learning opportunities after high school.

BUILDING A SUCCESSFUL COMMUNITY

In the first year that the academy opened, UCA staff discovered that the students—who were mostly strangers to each other—were initially having difficulty relating to one another. So in years 2, 3, and 4, they instituted “Freshmen Launch” to foster relationships. Okuley believes it has made a big difference.

“One of the big challenges—to cultivate the culture of a healthy, vibrant Christian school—we're seeing that now,” he said. “It is a tremendous thing. Last year at the end of the year, students were given an opportunity to share—open mic—to share testimony. Ten to twelve students came up and shared

what UCA has meant to them, but more importantly, what God is doing in their life. And it was moving.”

Okuley credits the teachers for the success of the school: “The teachers here are the reason why the school is successful because they've decided this mission is worth pursuing, this community is worth building, and so people move to the area and bought houses in the area.... It is so important that we acknowledge and celebrate the fact that the reason why Christian schools in general are so important is because you're learning with people who have deep convictions about who these students can be, who they're called to be.”

UCA'S FOUNDING CLASS GRADUATES

On June 10 of this year, UCA's founding Class of 2022 will march in an inaugural graduation ceremony in the sanctuary at the new campus at 700 E. 170th Street in South Holland. This year's graduating seniors have applied to and have been accepted to a number of institutions including the University of Illinois, Chicago; Bethel University in Minnesota, Bradley University in Peoria, Columbia College in Chicago, the Marines, and Illinois Wesleyan in Bloomington, IL.

UCA opened four years ago, but the school's origin began years earlier in 2014 when a committee of local clergy, business professionals, educators, parents, and community leaders met to discuss the future of Christian high school education in the south suburbs of Chicago. The committee conducted extensive market research, listened to community members, and formed a Board of Directors in 2016—all of which contributed to Unity Christian Academy becoming a reality. Loukisha Smart-Pennix served as founding Head of School from 2018-2020, and Okuley began serving as Head of School on July 1, 2020.

“If God has a use for Unity Christian Academy, He's going to provide, and He has,” Okuley said.

Unity Christian Academy is currently located at 16341 South Park Avenue in South Holland. More information about the school is available at weareuca.org. ■



Mexico en el Corazón hopes to return to Lansing

Date to be confirmed

BY MELANIE JONGSMA

LANSING, Ill. (May 16, 2022) - It was 2017 when *Mexico en el Corazón* (“Mexico in the heart”) first came to Lansing, Illinois. The show, consisting of dance group Ballet Folclórico Guadalajara and band Mariachi Juvenil Colotlán, featured two hours of nearly non-stop music and dancing in a packed gym at Memorial Junior High School. The crowd included Lansing residents as well as visitors from a 30-mile radius surrounding.

The show returned in 2018 and 2019, now filling the larger auditorium at TF South High School. The 2019 tour comprised 17 locations across the United States, including Lansing.

The 2020 pandemic forced organizers to offer a virtual performance, which could be viewed on their Facebook page, [facebook.com/mexicoencorazon](https://www.facebook.com/mexicoencorazon). And last year's uncertainty about COVID resurgence made planning such a large-scale event impossible, so the virtual performance was offered again.

HEARTS FULL OF HOPE

Lansing resident Martha Vargas is one of the directors of the Federation of Jalisco in the Midwest, and she has played a large role in bringing *Mexico en el Corazón* to Lansing for the past few years. Martha's husband Miguel provides tech support for the show. They began hoping already in January that *Corazón* would be able to resume their touring schedule this year. Martha is now coordinating efforts to have the show return this fall.

The tentative date is September 3, and the most likely location will again be TF South if the auditorium is available. As of this writing, availability and scheduling are still being verified with the school and with the *Mexico en el Corazón* organization.

Mexico en el Corazón is dedicated to preserving the cultural traditions of Mexico, par-



The 2019 performance of *Mexico en el Corazón* ended with a flourish of colorful costumes and a salute from the performers to the audience. (Photo: Melanie Jongsma)

ticularly those of Guadalajara. The program features dances and music originating from states all across Mexico, and the performers wear traditional costumes representing the various areas of Mexico. ■

“LAN-OAK PARK,” from page 1

for the fiscal year, including \$4,500 for materials to construct a shelter and \$1,500 to purchase tools to be used in the operation of the park. Appointments were made to carry out the process by which the board could borrow money against anticipated taxes.

The board of commissioners went to work very early after they acquired the park. Committees were formed in June 1949 to study plans for constructing a closed shelter, installing drinking fountains, and planting shrubbery and trees. Volunteers and civic-minded organizations in Lansing did most of the development of the park.

NAMING THE NEW PARK

Now Lansing had a park, money to operate it, and playground equipment. All that was left was to give the park a name. School kids were challenged to participate in a contest to name the new park district. Two first-graders—Joe Koselke of Coolidge School and Janet Barkow of St. Ann School—submitted the same name. “Lan-Oak” was their way to honor the two early settlements of Lansing and Oak Glen. So Lan-Oak became the name of Lansing’s first park as well as the new park district. Koselke and Barkow were each presented with a \$25 savings bond as a prize.

Incidentally, Janet Barkow (now Bockel) said she has no recollection of the contest or the savings bond. But newspaper accounts list her name along with Joe Koselke’s. In addition, Linda Koselke—who later married Joe—remembers that he shared the naming rights with Barkow. In fact, Linda remembers a photo of Janet and Joe and the Lan-Oak Park sign—that photo used to hang in the Eisenhower Center, which now serves as the main headquarters for the Lan-Oak Park District, but it was moved during a remodeling, and is currently missing. A photocopy of the photo was found in the Lansing Historical Society files regarding the 1976 centennial.

Joe Koselke died in 2020, and Linda participated in the park district’s Living Tree Memorial program in remembrance of him. From the list of approved trees, she purchased a Sugar Maple for Joe—“The kind that turn really red in the fall,” she said. It is planted in Lan-Oak Park, and Joe Koselke’s name is engraved on the Tree Memorial Plaque at the Eisenhower Center. Linda and Joe Koselke’s son Ken died in 2019, and their daughter Kara died in 2021, so Linda requested Sugar Maple Memorial Trees for all three of them.

EXTENDING ARCADIA

The missing section of Arcadia was one of the major drawbacks to easily accessing the park. So in their 1950 street program, the Village gave top priority to opening

Arcadia Street. The project was financed by the state’s gasoline tax rebate program.

Planners had hoped to dedicate the park and the Arcadia Street extension in 1950, but the park board decided to postpone that until the summer of 1951, when the work would be fully completed. Dedication of the new shelter would go on as planned in September 1950.

PART OF A GROWING COMMUNITY

In 1951 the board hired George Molenhouse as the first Park Superintendent. He remained in that post for 23 years, until his death on January 23, 1973.

(As a side note, Molenhouse also founded a zoo in Lansing in 1970. The Molenhouse Zoo held more than 50 animals—including two bison—all donated. The two bison met an unfortunate end when mischievous kids cut the padlock on their cage, setting them loose in Lansing streets, where police were forced to shoot and kill them. The zoo was closed in 1974 when the Park Board voted against holding a referendum to raise \$45,000 for upkeep of the animals following Molenhouse’s death.)

The 1950s brought a sharp increase in population, and newspaper pages were filled with “homes for sale” ads, priced from \$10,000 to \$18,000, and promoting the attraction of living near Lan-Oak Park. Lansing’s population grew from 4,466 in 1940 to an estimated 10,000 in 1950, to approximately 29,000 today.

The mission of the Lan-Oak Park District became: “To strive to enhance the quality of life for all Lansing residents by providing clean, safe parks, well-developed recreational facilities in a wide range of recreational programs and activities for all ages.”

GROWING AND SERVING AND ADAPTING

Seventy-three years later, the Lan-Oak Park District has garnered 170 acres of park land, most of which was donated by individuals or organizations. The park district website lists 19 parks, and Lan-Oak Park is the largest, at 20 acres. In addition the park district manages the Eisenhower Center, a full-service fitness center comprising a pre-school, a 25-yard lap pool, and a wide vari-



The 1950 dedication stone, listing the original commissioners, can still be viewed on the back wall of the Lan-Oak Park shelter that was built in 1950. (Photo: Melanie Jongmsa)

ety of special programs. North of the Eisenhower Center parking lot, the Mildred Burt Nature Center features a Chimney Swift tower for the migrating birds. Lan-Oak Park District provides facilities for a wide range of sports, activities, and classes, serving every age from infants to senior citizens.

Lan-Oak Park might be considered the crown jewel of Lansing’s park district amenities. As Lansing’s first and largest park, it embodies community spirit in its formation as well as its continued service. Ordinary residents cast the vision and brought it to reality. And now, generations later, families meet each other at the playground, seniors gather for horseshoes or bags, dog-walkers put in three-quarters of a mile by circling the perimeter of the park, and soon volleyball enthusiasts will enjoy new sand courts.

As a larger expression of community and tradition, Lan-Oak Park will host the annual July 4 fireworks display this year on Sunday, July 3, from 7:30 to 10 p.m. The Independence Day celebration has seen change throughout the years, in response to the changing needs of the community. What was once a full day of entertainment, games, and food vendors now focuses on the evening fireworks display, while families host their own gatherings in or around the park.

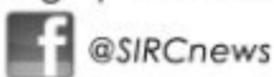
More information about the fireworks event on July 3 is available on the Lan-Oak Park District’s online calendar: lanoakparkdistrict.org/event/july-3rd-fireworks. ■

YOU
 DESERVE TO
KNOW
MORE



Send us a tip!

SIRCnews.org | A 501c3 nonprofit



EMAIL tips@SIRCnews.org

Journal journeys

A feature that works best with a print issue

LANSING, Ill. (June 2022) - Back when The Lansing Journal published a print edition every month, we ran a regular feature called The Lansing Journal Journeys. We showcased photos of readers bringing a printed copy of The Lansing Journal to creative locations near or far.

We started the feature because this is a community newspaper, and we look for opportunities to involve our community in its pages. We’ve published over 100 Journal Journeys submissions—the last one was from Dan and Maryann Centracchio in September of 2021:



Dan and Maryann Centracchio visited historic Galena, Illinois, along with friends Jeff & Lynn Kohn from Schererville, and The Lansing Journal from December 2020. (Photo by Maryann Centracchio)

We’d like to see more! Your location doesn’t have to be exotic or far; it just has to have The Lansing Journal in it somewhere. Email Journal Journeys photos to info@thelansingjournal.com and tell us:

1. The names of any people (or animals) in the photo
2. Some information about the location
3. The name of the person who took the photo

We’ll publish your photos online as we receive them. Make sure you are subscribed, so you see your photos when we post them! Scan the QR code or sign up at thelansingjournal.com/subscribe.



www.aeplayer.com

Must be 21 or older to play slots.

ACCELENTER

PRES



HOT SLOTS | COOL



Cheer's VIDEO GAMING

CHEERS VIDEO GAMING

16907 Torrence Avenue,
Lansing, IL 60438

COMING SOON

YOUR PLACE TO BEAT

AE ACCELENTERTAINMENT

VOUCHER
MATCH PLAY

\$10

2 River Place - Suite A,
Lansing, IL 60438

Ron's Reels
SLOTS & POKER

Valid with ID. One per household. One coupon per person. Subject to change. The location has the right, in its sole discretion, to revoke the promotion at any time. Must be 21 or older to play slots and redeem. Must show valid ID to redeem.

ENTERTAINMENT CENTERS



ACCELENTERTAINMENT



CASH | NOW AT

Ron's Reels

SLOTS & POKER

RON'S REELS

2 River Place - Suite A,
Lansing, IL 60438

Monday - Thursday | 8am to 12pm
Friday & Saturday | 8am to 2am
Sunday | 12pm to 12am

Bogey's

SLOTS & POKER

BOGEY'S CAFE

1761 River Oaks Drive,
Calumet City, IL 60409

Monday - Saturday | 8am to 12pm
Sunday | 12pm to 12am

FOR FUN TIMES THE HEAT



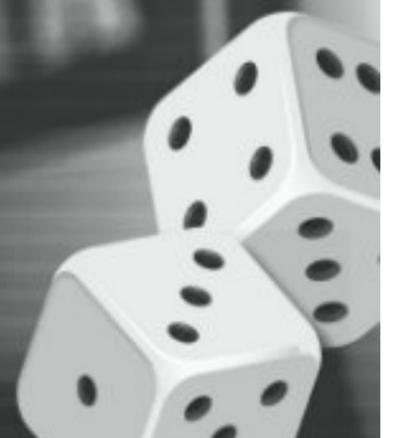
VOUCHER
MATCH PLAY

MAT **\$10** PLAY

1761 River Oaks Drive,
Calumet City, IL 60409

Bogey's
SLOTS & POKER

Valid with \$1. One per household. One coupon per person.
Subject to change. The location has the right, in its sole discretion, to revoke the promotion at any time. Must be 21 or older to play slots and redeem. Must show valid ID to redeem.



Pennsy Greenway Rail Trail and Thorn Creek Trail

Two Lansing bike paths for summer riding

BY JENNIFER YOS

LANSING, Ill. (May 27, 2022) – Lansing bicycle riders are fortunate to have two trail options for their riding enjoyment—the Pennsy Greenway Rail Trail and the Thorn Creek Trail. Soon the Village hopes to add another, as Lansing is in Phase I of an engineering study to vet a route that would safely link these two trails.

Summer is a popular season for trail activity, but bicycle enthusiasts—as well as hikers, skaters, cross-country skiers, and dog-walkers—have year-round access to both trails.

THE PENNSY GREENWAY RAIL TRAIL

Overview: The Pennsy Greenway is a 12.5 mile asphalt trail extending north/southeast on the old Penn Central Railway. It diagonally traverses the Village of Lansing, touching Calumet City to the north and Munster, Indiana, to the southeast. The trail continues many miles beyond Lansing in both directions, going as far north as Chicago (through a link with the Burnham Greenway Trail), and as far southeast as Rohrman Park in Schererville, Indiana.

Scenery and destinations:

Pennsy Greenway links with the Burnham Greenway, making it possible to bicycle to Chicago and Maywood via a system of trails called The Grand Illinois Trail.

On the north end of the trail, natural growth and foliage of prairie flowers, reeds, brambles, and trees provide natural beauty and occasional shade from the

summer sun. The north end of the trail connects with the Burnham Greenway, a trail that crosses the Little Calumet River, making it possible to ride from Lansing to specific destinations in Calumet City, such as the Green Lake Family Aquatic Center or Holy Cross Cemetery. The Burnham Greenway—like the Pennsy Greenway Trail—is part of the Grand Illinois Trail System, which creates a gateway to additional destinations such as downtown Chicago, Oak Park, and Maywood.

Heading diagonally south-eastwardly from 175th Street, the trail passes along residential backyards and into downtown Lansing. Bicycle stands are available at the Fox Pointe concert venue for riders who would like to rest, find refreshments, and shop in downtown Lansing or attend one of the summer concerts at Fox Pointe. Conveniently, a new bicycle shop—Greenway Bikehouse—has opened across from Fox Pointe on the corner of Henry and Lake Street.

Continuing east of Wentworth Avenue, the trail passes behind the grounds of the former Lansing Sportsman's Club and continues into Munster, Indiana. At Fisher Street in Munster, riders have a couple of options:

1) They can continue eastward on the Pennsy Greenway trail to Calumet Avenue and on to Centennial Park in Munster or even beyond, all the way to Rohrman Park in Schererville, Indiana.

2) They can turn onto the 4.4 mile Monon Trail (Lake County) that heads north from Fisher Street and Manor Avenue into downtown Munster on Ridge Road and further on into Hammond, IN. The Monon Trail Head Fountain on Ridge Road in Munster offers a pleasant resting spot or turn-around point for returning to Lansing. It also offers a public drinking fountain.

Accessibility and safety considerations: Because the Pennsy Greenway intersects Lansing, it crosses many Lansing streets, some with safer access to the trail than others in regard to traffic. On the north end of Lansing, the trail crosses 170th Street, just west of the fire and police departments. Further south the trail crosses Bernice Road, just west of Railroad Avenue. Higher-speed traffic on both these roads necessitates extra caution when either accessing the trail or crossing on the trail. Potts Park, at 172nd Street and Oakwood Avenue, provides a quieter access to the trail, which passes along the park's western edge.

From Bernice Road, the trail continues south under the viaduct on Bikeway Avenue and crosses 175th Street. Extra caution is advised while riding along and across these roads due to poor visibility under the viaduct and busy traffic along 175th Street. The trail continues in a southeast diagonal direction, crossing Chicago Avenue, 178th

Street, and Burnham Avenue, respectively. Each of these three street crossings offers relatively easy access to the trail, but extra caution is advised crossing busy Burnham Avenue.

The trail continues southeast to Winterhoff Park on Roy Street and then through the Fox Pointe concert venue on Randolph Street—if the gates are open. When the gates are closed, bicyclists must ride through the parking area outside the venue to reach Henry Street on the east side. The trail continues south to Ridge Road, which provides a pedestrian-crossing traffic light. With plentiful parking in downtown Lansing, Ridge Road is a good choice for accessing the trail when arriving by car.

The trail picks up again at Lansing's Clock Tower, passing American Legion Post 697 and continuing east to the traffic-heavy Wentworth Avenue. At Wentworth, there is a marked pedestrian crosswalk, but no traffic light, which necessitates extra caution while crossing. Beyond Wentworth, the trail continues eastward across the Indiana border.

THORN CREEK TRAIL

Overview: The Thorn Creek Trail System has approximately 30 miles of paved and unpaved trails that connect several forest preserves in Lansing, Glenwood, and Chicago Heights.

Scenery and destinations: The Thorn Creek Trail's northernmost point in Lansing begins at the entrance to the

Lansing Woods on 186th Street. The trail winds southward through the Lansing Woods, running roughly parallel to the woods' North Creek, a tributary of Thorn Creek.

The trail crosses Torrence Avenue and continues westward through North Creek Meadow. The ride through the Lansing Woods and North Creek Meadow offers many sights and sounds of nature—butterflies flitting and dancing amidst prairie flowers, birds chirping, frogs croaking loudly in wetland areas, and deer poised in alert stance just within the forest's edge.

The trail continues westward to Stoney Island Avenue and crosses IL Route 394 on the overpass bridge; however, this summer the bridge will be closed due to construction and will not reopen until early September. Beyond the overpass, the trail continues along Glenwood-Lansing Road, just south of Jurgensen Woods. It then doglegs north along N. Cottage Grove Avenue and into Sweet Woods in Glenwood.

The trail through Sweet Woods is mostly shady as it winds along Thorn Creek. There are several off-trail paths along the way for those who enjoy all-terrain bicycling. The trail crosses a steep train trestle before it exits the woods at N. Main Street in Glenwood.

The trail then heads south through a series of forest preserves in Glenwood and

Continued, next page

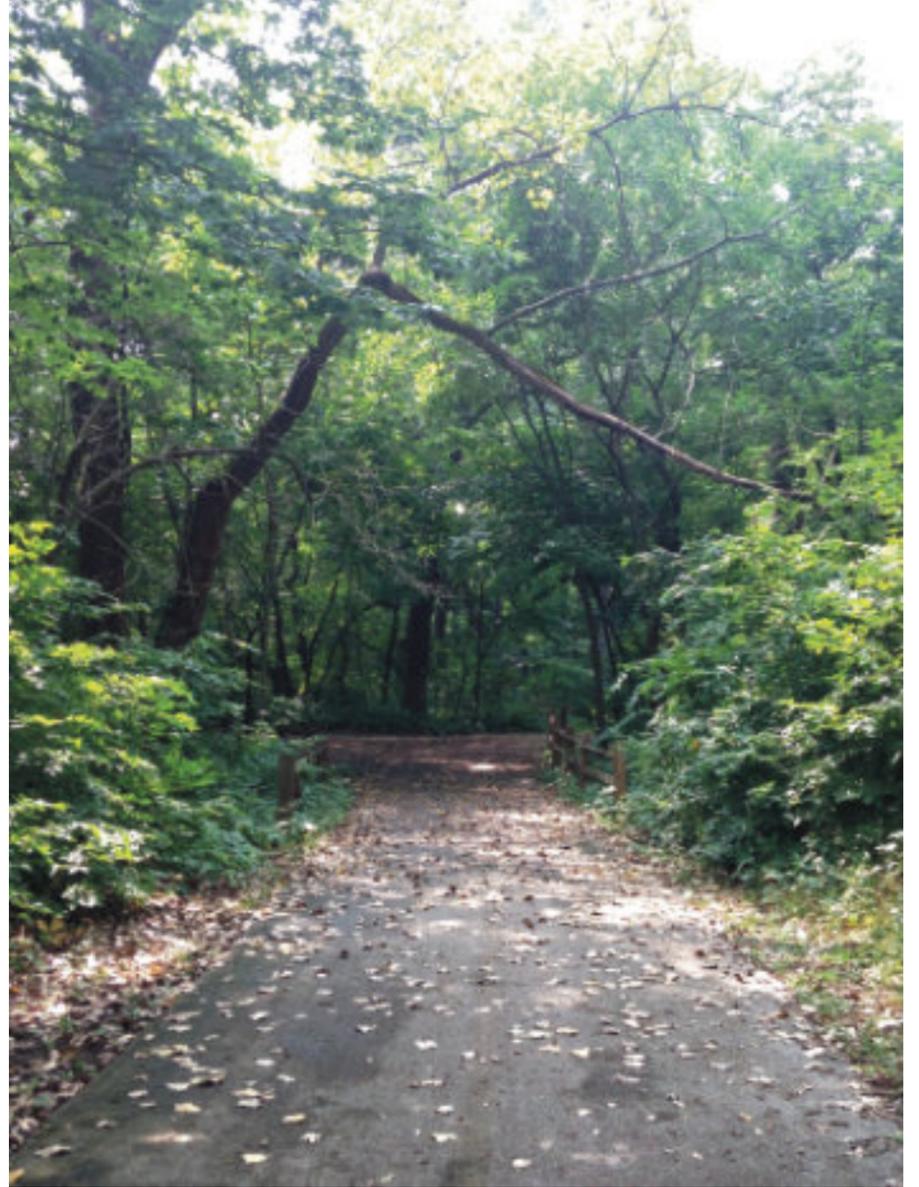
What if you could be *Safe* but still surrounded by *Friends*?

AFFORDABLE ASSISTANCE IN UNCERTAIN TIMES

Click or call for more information:

708-474-6100

SAINT ANTHONY



Above: The Pennsy Greenway Trail connects Chicago, Illinois, to Schererville, Indiana, passing through Lansing. Right: The Thorn Creek Trail connects forest preserves and meadows in Lansing, Glenwood, and Chicago Heights and can be accessed from Torrence Avenue. (Photos: Jennifer Yos)

Chicago Heights. At its southernmost point, it loops around Sauk Trail Lake, and heads back north along the same trail through Glenwood and back to Lansing.

Departing from Lansing Woods and traveling to the Glenwood Sauk Trail Lake loop and back is about 27 miles of biking.

Accessibility and safety considerations: The Thorn Creek Trail can be easily accessed from the Lansing Woods parking lot on 186th Street east of Torrence Avenue, or from the North Creek Meadow parking lot on Glenwood Lansing Road, just west of Torrence Avenue. The North Creek Meadow parking lot also

has the amenity of a clean public restroom.

On the Lansing and Glenwood segments of the trail, bicyclists must cross three busy avenues that run north/south: Torrence, Stoney Island, and Cottage Grove. Pedestrian traffic lights assist bicyclists across both Torrence Avenue and Stoney Island Avenue at their Glenwood-Lansing Road intersections, but the crossing over Cottage Grove Avenue into Sweet Woods has no traffic light, and bicyclists need to be cautious of oncoming traffic.

Some bicyclists choose to cross Torrence Avenue just north of the Glenwood-Lansing

intersection, but this is a riskier undertaking as there is no traffic light for the heavy traffic whizzing by at high speeds.

Since the bridge that crosses IL Route 394 will be under construction until early September of this year, it will be difficult for riders to continue the trail safely past Stoney Island Avenue. The detour that is suggested for vehicles along Stoney Island Avenue is not bicycle-friendly, leaving virtually

no room to the right of the road. The best way to reach the trail beyond Route 394 is by car. Sweet Woods has a parking lot at its N. Cottage Grove entrance. ■

Special thanks and credit go to the following sources that provided maps and information for this article: TrailLink, the Forest Preserves of County, the Grand Illinois Trail User Guide Third Edition 2015, and the Illinois Department of Natural Resources.



Catered Living

Get the assistance you need, right when you need it.

Schedule a tour at ParkPlaceStJohn.com/ForYou or call (219) 327-2260

Coach Bob Tengstrand and TFS badminton team celebrate another year of south side dominance

BY JOSH BOOTSMA

LANSING, Ill. (May 27, 2022) – This year’s TF South Badminton season was special. The Red Wolves won conference for the 11th straight year, took home the sectional championship title yet again, and performed well at state, placing ninth overall.

But this year has been special for another reason, too: longtime coach Bob Tengstrand was inducted into the Illinois Association of Badminton Coaches Hall of Fame as part of its inaugural class.

SUCCESS FROM START TO STATE

The Red Wolves were dominant throughout the badminton season. In the team’s first tournament of the year on March 16, the squad beat Bolingbrook 8-0, beat Geneva 8-0, and lost to Nequa Valley 6-2. Nequa Valley went on to take fourth place in the state.

On March 19, the team didn’t lose a single match in a six-team tournament. In another six-team tournament on March 26, the team won 27 of its 30 matches, again earning first place. The team won all of its 30 matches on March 29 against Oak Forest and TF North, and was

again perfect vs. Lemont and Argo on April 5 and 7.

On April 20, after a weeks-long winning streak, TFS lost to Fremd High School in Palatine, a team that eventually won second in the state.

At the South Suburban Conference meet, the varsity squad did not lose a match, punching their ticket to sectionals for the 11th straight time. At sectionals, the final match in both the singles and doubles division were between Red Wolves; junior Christina Aguilar battled senior Diana Cardenas in the singles division, and seniors Paige Drewno and Carla Martinez faced off against seniors Azul Rodriguez and Val Sandoval in the doubles division.

On May 12, Aguilar, Cardenas, Drewno, Martinez, Rodriguez, and Sandoval competed at the state competition at Hinsdale South High School in Darien. Tengstrand said the team did about as well as they expected to at the state tournament, with the six girls finishing ninth overall and doubles team Drewno and Martinez winning sixth place in the doubles division, earning a medal.

BOB TENGSTRAND—HALL OF FAMER

Though he’s happy with this year’s state tournament result, winning is not new to Coach Bob Tengstrand, whose badminton team has not failed to win a conference title since he starting coaching at TF South in 2011.

“We’re the best school on the south side, there’s no one close to us,” he said.

Earning a nod to the Hall of Fame, however, is new to “Coach T.”

The Illinois Association of Badminton Coaches (IABC) opened nominations for its first-ever Hall of Fame class this year, and five coaches and former players were selected for the honor, including Tengstrand.

“Big schools put him up for the award,” assistant coach Sean Coultas said, emphasizing that it wasn’t TF South’s self-promotion that got Tengstrand the nod, but his reputation among the largest, most successful programs in the state.

HOME-GROWN COACH

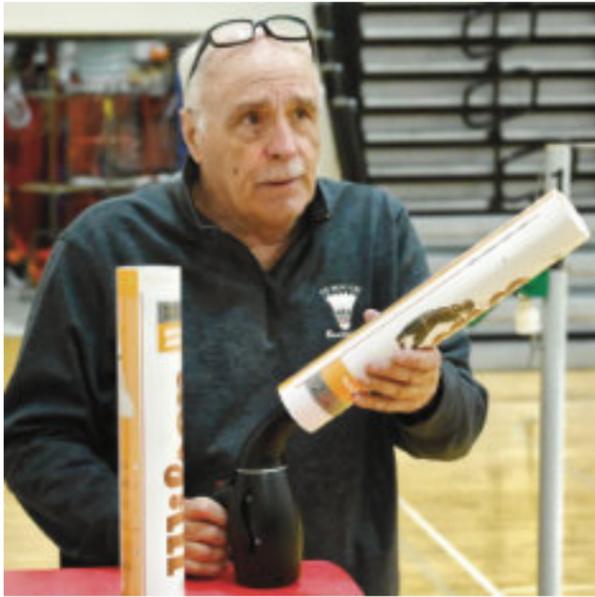
Coultas has been working with Tengstrand for over 20 years, since they coached together at TF North.

A self-described “young punk” high schooler, Tengstrand played basketball and baseball at TF North before leaving for college. He accepted a job to teach at his alma mater at age 21, and was asked to coach a sport he’d never been involved in—girls badminton.

“I talked with my buddies, and they laughed and said, ‘Oh my god, they’re going to drive you nuts.’ And I said, ‘You know what? Let’s try it,’” he said.

He partnered with the late Bob Schwingendorf to bring the badminton program to life at TF North,

Continued, next page



TF South Badminton coach Bob Tengstrand uses a steamer to prepare birdies for use during the sectional tournament on May 5, 2022. (Photo: Josh Bootsma)

Bike share program coming to Lansing

BY JOSH BOOTSMA

LANSING, Ill. (May 18, 2022) – Soon, not owning a bike will no longer keep local residents from enjoying Lansing’s bike paths. The Lan-Oak Park District is planning to bring a public bike share program to town.

According to the park district’s spring newsletter, bicycle docking stations will be installed “in multiple locations throughout Lansing.”

The newsletter also said the bikes will be accessed through an app where users can pay for and unlock their bike. The same app will allow riders to lock their bikes in other locations during use.

Each bicycle will have seven speeds, a basket, a cup holder, and a bell.

The park district maintains the Pennsy Greenway bike path that runs north into Calumet City and southeast

into Munster.

The Lan-Oak Park District says the bike share program will come to Lansing this summer, though it is not clear when the program will start or where the bike docking stations will be placed.

The park district declined The Lansing Journal’s request for more details and expressed a preference for sharing information about the bike share program directly with residents.

The contact information available on the park district website is:

- Eisenhower Community and Fitness Center
- 2550 178th Street, Lansing, IL 60438
- Phone: 708-474-8552
- Fax: 708-418-0942
- Website: www.lanoakparkdistrict.org

High School.

Redefined.

Redesigned.

UNITY CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

WeAreUCA.org

facebook.com/WeAreUCA

South Holland, IL



TF South junior Christina Aguilar prepares to smash a birdie during the sectional tournament on May 5. Aguilar would go on to win first place in TF South's sectional. (Photo: Josh Bootsma)

Tengstrand said, who taught business classes and coached at TF North from 1983–2010.

COACH T GOES SOUTH

In 2011, Tengstrand came to TF South to teach, with no coaching aspirations.

"Two moms came to me and said, 'Would you please train our daughters, because they're not really learning anything at South,'" remembered Tengstrand, who said the badminton program at TFS was lackluster when he arrived. "I said, yeah, you know what? I'll take a look at them. ...We start training them, and before you know it, everybody's going, 'You gotta coach the team!'"

"I said I would coach for four years and that was it. And now, we're on year 12, so that should tell you something. It's been a great time," Tengstrand said, now 70 years old.

COACHING PLAYERS

Jessica Gomez graduated from TF South in 2014 after a successful badminton career. After starting the sport in her sophomore year, she did not lose a conference or sectional match in three straight years, and she took third place in the state in both her junior and senior seasons.

Gomez says her success and passion for the game came largely from the mentorship of Tengstrand: "90% is his coaching and his personality, even outside of it, just him as a person and who he is. If it wasn't for him coaching, I wouldn't have been as good as I was back then," she said.

A testament to Tengstrand's motivation, Gomez returns as often as she can to help train and motivate the next batch of TF South badminton players.

"If the kids aren't motivated, you have nothing," Tengstrand said. "If they are motivated, they'll come to open gyms, they'll come to summer camps, they'll work hard, they'll stay after practice and listen to you. Motivation is the key, and every kid is motivated in a different way."

COACHING PEOPLE

Despite all his time spent inside the gym, Tengstrand is just as beloved for his actions outside of it. During the heart of the pandemic, for example, when athletes couldn't come to TF South and practice, Tengstrand brought care baskets to their homes on a monthly basis.

Gomez said, "He's a very giving person. He's just always giving. ...And [he's] just fun to be around. ...I always just saw him as a second father."

"Mainly, I view it as paying back, for what the sport has given me," Tengstrand said. "I always say it's my way to give back to badminton."

ACCEPTING THE AWARD

Tengstrand considered not accepting the Hall of Fame award. "I [told the IABC], to please make it clear that it's

not a one-man show. I couldn't have done it without my parents. I couldn't have done it without the Athletic Director. I couldn't have done it without my fabulous assistant coaches. I couldn't have done it without players. I couldn't have done it without booster club, and maintenance. It's a conglomeration of a lot of people. ...I told them I'll accept the award on behalf of all the people who made it possible," he said.

Despite Tengstrand's resistance, Gomez believes he fully deserves the award. "I was really proud of him, but I wasn't that surprised," Gomez said, remembering when she heard the news. "He's probably the best coach I've ever had, and one of the best people you'll ever meet." ■

Red Wolves Track leads the pack

BY JOSH BOOTSMA

LANSING, Ill. (May 16, 2022) – The TF South Boys and Girls Track and Field teams have each had a successful season, building on multiple years of improvement.

GIRLS TRACK AND FIELD

The Girls Track team won their third consecutive conference title on May 4, launching them to a sectional appearance on May 11. At the sectional, the squad placed 10th out of 16 teams, scoring one point more than last year's sectional.

Highlighting the sectional meet for TFS were Taylor Poole, JASONY STARKLEY, Laniya Porter, and Janiya Lucas, who took second place in the 4x200 meter relay and fourth place in the 4x100 meter relay.

Additionally, Sheilliyah Lipscomb took sixth in the 300 meter hurdles, Nyrobi Moore took eighth place in the 400 meter race, and Aniya Barton took eighth place in the triple jump.

BOYS TRACK AND FIELD

About a week after Girls Track, Boys Track took home their own conference championship. Both the Varsity and JV squads finished in first place in the conference meet, which occurred on May 12.

As of this writing, the sectional meet—on May 18—has not happened. Last year, TF South performed well at sectionals, bringing eight events to state—the most in school history. This year's state competition will take place on May 27 and 28.

To stay up-to-date with the TF South Boys Track team and other sports-related news, scan the QR code to subscribe. ■



Continued from previous page through attending clinics and watching the pros. "We put a lot of effort in and we became successful really quick,"

Waters Edge

**NEW LOCATION
SAME AMAZING EXPERIENCE
5 RIDGE ROAD, MUNSTER**

**BRING THIS COUPON FOR 15% OFF
THROUGH JUNE 30, 2022** Cannot be used with any other promotion

Waters Edge

**GIFT, GARDEN, AND POND CENTER
Now located at 5 RIDGE ROAD, MUNSTER IN
(708) 895-2554**

NEW location!

Let's meet at *Dine in or carry out*

Gabe's Place

Breakfast & Lunch

- Breakfast
- Lunch
- Daily homemade specials and soups
- Friday night fish fry

Open daily at 6am

Mo–Th: 6am to 3pm
Fr: 6am to 9pm (Fish Fry 4 to 9pm)
Sa– Su: 6am to 3pm

Breakfast & Lunch

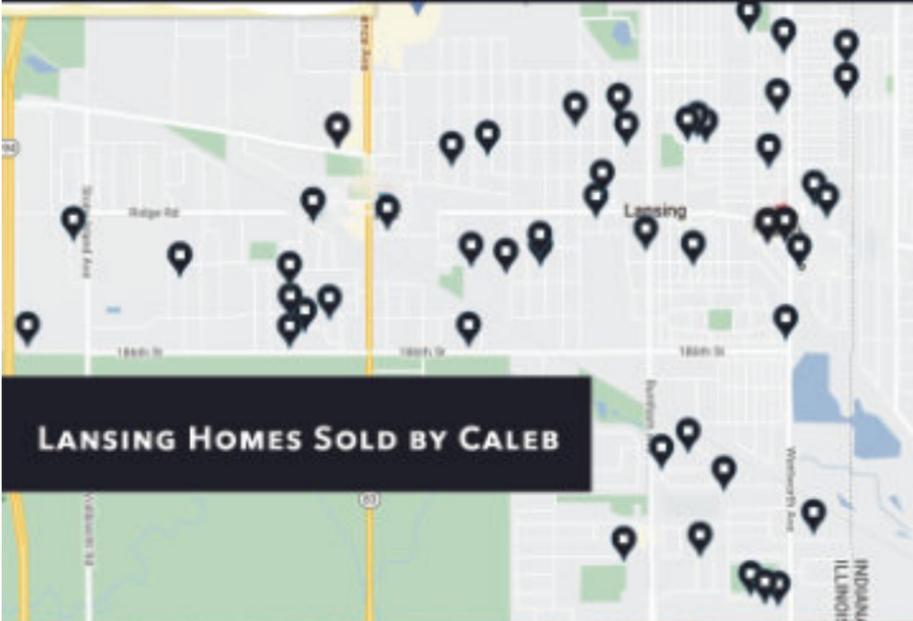
9 East Main Street • Glenwood IL • 708-757-7171
GabesPlaceofGlenwood.com • facebook.com/GabesPlaceofGlenwood

BUYING OR SELLING?

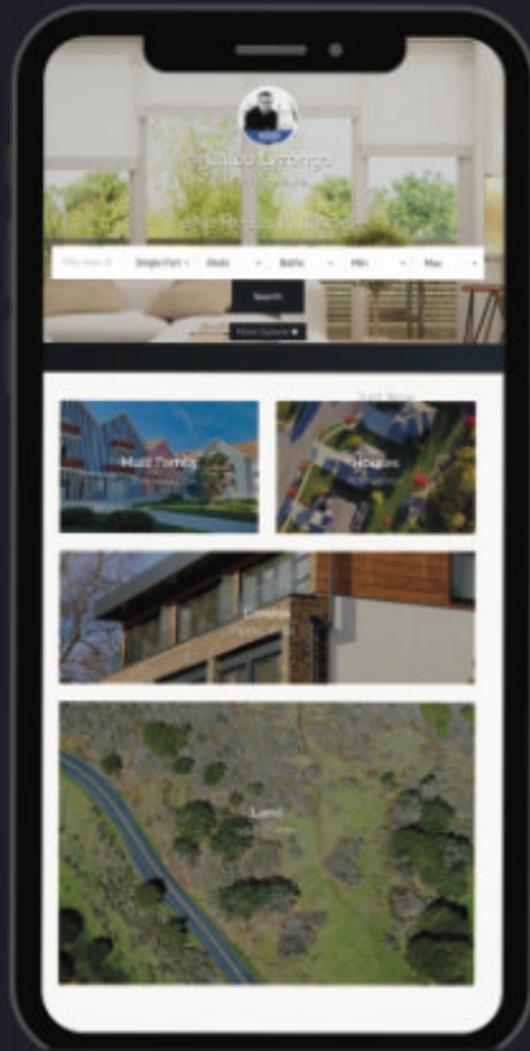
YOU DESERVE THE BEST.



LANSING'S TOP REALTOR® 2021



LANSING HOMES SOLD BY CALEB



SEARCH HOMES & GET A VALUATION
ON MY WEBSITE
HOMESBYLYZENGA.COM

CALEB LYZENGA
exp
REALTY

LICENSED REALTOR® IL & IN

📞 708-208-2209

📧 Caleb.Lyzenga@Yahoo.com

🌐 HomesByLyzenga.com

Hire Our Team Today!