



Candidates speak

Four Village Trustee candidates running for three available seats make their case at February forum



Village Trustee candidates (seated on stage, from left) Saad Abbasy, Rob Collins, Maureen Grady-Perovich, and Jerry Zeldenrust participated in a Candidate Forum hosted by the Lansing Public Library on Tuesday, February 28. Library Director Lisa Korajczyk (at podium) welcomed the audience attending in person and online. Lansing Journal Publisher Melanie Jongsma (green jacket) and Managing Editor Josh Bootsma (not pictured) moderated the forum, and journalist Jennifer Yos (at table) ran the time clock. (Photo: Quinton Arthur)

BY PAUL CZAPKOWICZ

LANSSING, Ill. (March 1, 2023) - A large crowd gathered at the Lansing Public Library on February 28 to learn about the four candidates who are running for three, four-year terms to serve as Village Trustees.

Voters will decide on April 4 among two incumbents, a former trustee and a first-time candidate. Early Voting begins March 20.

The four answered a variety of questions and were given the opportunity to share their goals and views at the forum that was

conducted by The Lansing Journal. Managing Editor Josh Bootsma and Publisher Melanie Jongsma served as moderators.

Three of the candidates (current Village Trustees Saad Abbasy and Jerry Zeldenrust, along with newcomer Robert Collins) belong to the Village Voice Party.

Former Village Trustee Maureen Grady-Perovich is running with the Lansing First Party of which she is the founder and lone member.

Questions were formed by The Lansing Journal and members of

the public. Some questions were presented to all candidates for a response, while others were specific to individual candidates.

SAAD ABBASY (VILLAGE VOICE PARTY)

Abbasy was elected to the Lansing Board of Trustees in 2019 and is board president and a coach for Lansing Little League.

Abbasy is a financial regulator at the National Futures Association and identified the village's infrastructure and fiscal responsibility as two of his main areas of concern.

He said Lansing needs to have a five-year capital plan to responsibly prepare for infrastructure projects.

"Many of you might not know that Lansing has over 90 miles of roads that we manage as a community, and that takes financial planning ahead of to be able to repair those," Abbasy said.

He said fiscal responsibility includes slowing the growth of the Village's tax levy.

"My professional experience, my municipal experience, and my community service make me a well-rounded candidate for the position of Village Trustee," Abbasy said.

JERRY ZELDENRUST (VILLAGE VOICE PARTY)

Zeldenrust was appointed as a Village Trustee in 2017 and won

election to the board in 2019.

He served Lansing as a police officer for 29 years and spoke of the importance of continued staffing of the village's police and fire departments.

He also stressed economic development and mentioned "the restructure of Torrence Avenue from one end to the other."

"It's beautiful to see the new businesses that are coming, and that's just the beginning," Zeldenrust said.

He said being a trustee is more important than just winning a political race.

"For me it's more like being allowed to be a steward of what our predecessors have established as a way of life here," Zeldenrust said.

See "CANDIDATES," page 2

When and where to vote

EARLY VOTING BEGINS MARCH 20

Voters can choose any Early Voting location to register and vote. Hours vary by location and by day. These Early Voting sites are among the closest to Lansing:

- Calumet City Public Library, 600 Manistee Avenue, Calumet City, 708-862-6220
- Sandridge School Gym, 2950 Glenwood-Dyer Road, Lynwood, 708-895-2450
- South Suburban College, 15800 S. State Street, South Holland, 708-210-5718
- Markham Courthouse, Room 238, 16501 S. Kedzie Avenue, Markham, 708-232-4170

ELECTION DAY IS APRIL 4

Election Day voting is available only at assigned polling places, from 6 a.m. – 7 p.m. Polling places in Lansing are:

- First Church PCA (3134 Ridge Road) — Thornton Township Precincts 43 and 47
 - Calvin Coolidge School (17845 Henry Street) — Thornton Township Precincts 16, 51, 56, and 65
 - Lansing Public Library (2750 Indiana Avenue) — Thornton Township Precincts 18 and 68
 - Oak Glen School (2101 E. 182nd Street) — Thornton Township Precincts 19, 50, and 117
 - Lansing Police Department (2710 170th Street) — Thornton Township Precinct 17
 - Reavis School (17121 Roy Street) — Thornton Township Precinct 13
 - Bethel Church (3500 Glenwood-Lansing Road) — Bloom Township Precincts 5, 14, and 44
- Registered voters can determine the precinct they live in by checking their Voter ID Card or by using the Voter Information Tool on the Cook County Clerk's website. ■



The crowd at the library on February 28 learned about the four candidates running for three, four-year terms as Village Trustees. The forum included questions submitted in advance, as well as a few questions from audience members that night. (Photo: Quinton Arthur)

Candidates: On economic development, cannabis, gaming, and more

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

ROB COLLINS (VILLAGE VOICE PARTY)

Collins serves as police chief for the Village of Dolton, is a veteran of the U.S. Marine Corps and owns Elegant Design Photography in downtown Lansing.

Collins feels strongly about public safety and sees a tie-in with economic development. “A safe community also attracts good, reputable businesses,” Collins said. “And Lansing residents deserve a variety of good choices as to where they dine and to where they shop.”

Collins mentioned seeing that the police and fire departments are trained and staffed and said he wants to make sure every effort is made to keep the Lansing community a safe one.

“That’s why I’m proud to serve on the Lansing Board of Fire and Police Commissioners, so that we can ensure that we hire the best of the best fire fighters, the best of the best police officers,” Collins said.

MAUREEN GRADY-PEROVICH (LANSING FIRST PARTY)

Grady-Perovich served as a Village Trustee from 2017 to 2021.

She has 43 years of experience as a registered nurse and has earned a doctorate in Nursing Practice.

Grady-Perovich said public safety and the management of finances are priorities, along with making sure the needs of village employees, residents and business owners are met.

“As the only independent trustee candidate, I promise to

use my advanced education and experience with municipal government to do the research needed in order to make knowledgeable, evidence-based decisions when casting my vote regarding issues coming before the Village Board,” Grady-Perovich said.

Differences among the candidates were noticeable when certain topics were addressed during the forum, including: gaming, cannabis, and the hiring of an economic development director for the village.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

“I feel strongly that we need our own economic development person,” Grady-Perovich said. “I think that that person can take over some of the duties that our village administrator has had to take on.”

Collins was the only other candidate to raise his hand when asked if Lansing should hire a full-time economic development director.

CANNABIS

When the question was asked whether Lansing should welcome a cannabis dispensary, Grady-Perovich was the only candidate to not voice a personal objection, provided

that it not be near a school nor in the family-oriented area of Ridge Road.

“But I think it is a wonderful opportunity for revenue within the Village of Lansing,” Grady-Perovich said.

Collins said he is not in favor of a dispensary. “But if we had to do it, I would agree with that location is absolutely important,” Collins said.

Abbasy said it is hard to deny that a dispensary would bring in money.

“I would hope that we can make that revenue up somewhere else,” Abbasy said. “It’s not what I necessarily want for my community.”

Zeldenrust was the most adamant in his objection to a dispensary. He said much of his time as a police officer was

Continued, next page



During the questions-from-the-audience portion of the Candidate Forum, Penny Sumner (holding microphone) asked the candidates if Lansing has any plans to make more senior housing available in town. (Photo: Quinton Arthur)



At the outset, Lansing Journal Managing Editor Josh Bootsma explained the rules of the forum. For most questions, candidates were given 60 seconds to answer. (Photo: Quinton Arthur)

We don’t do political endorsements

BY MELANIE JONGSMA, PUBLISHER

CHICAGO, Ill. (March 2023) – Last fall, Managing Editor Josh Bootsma and I were both surprised to see our photo on a mailing from one of our elected officials.

We had attended a Lansing Area Chamber event hosted by a Lansing business owner. Illinois State Representative Marcus Evans was the featured speaker. We enjoyed some conversation with him after the event, and the business owner asked for a photo with the three of us. We were happy to oblige.

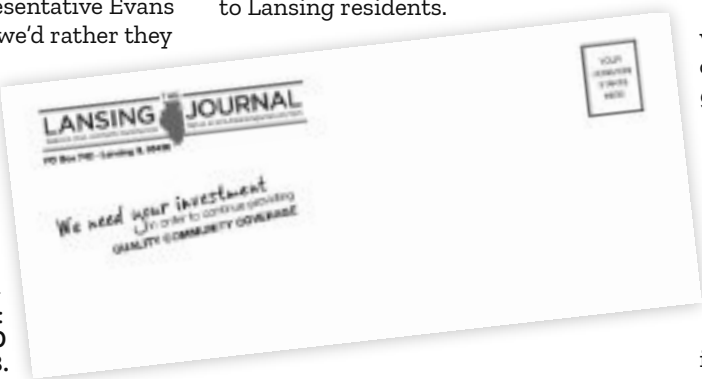
But we were surprised to see that photo featured so prominently in Evans’ next mailing. It seemed to imply an endorsement, and that made Josh and myself uncomfortable.

The Lansing Journal doesn’t do endorsements. We work hard to provide balanced, factual information about all local candidates, so people can make their own decisions about how to vote.

A QUICK CORRECTION

I reached out to Representative Evans and his assistant to say we’d rather they didn’t use our photo in their political mail.

We included an envelope like this because we want to make it easy for people to support the unbiased local reporting we do. Is your envelope missing? Here’s the mailing info to send in a check: The Lansing Journal, PO Box 742, Lansing IL 60438.



ings. His assistant replied quickly, assuring me the mailer was informational, not political. She apologized for any “uncomfortableness” and said Lansing Journal staff will not be included in future photos. I do appreciate their quick response, and I believe their new protocol will

help avoid future misinterpretations.

This may seem like an overreaction to what might have been an innocent use of a nice photo. But I think it’s important to make sure there’s no misunderstanding.

The Lansing Journal doesn’t do political endorsements.

HELPFUL INFORMATION

That’s important to know because this print edition of The Lansing Journal has a lot of political information in it. In this issue we are reporting on the local candidates in the races where Lansing voters have a voice. You’ll also find information about Early Voting, registering to vote, and polling places on Election Day, April 4. It’s a lot of work to gather that information, and we do it because it’s helpful to Lansing residents.

Within these pages, you won’t find any endorsements of any of the candidates in any of the races.

You’ll find information that will help you get to know all the candidates, so you can make your own voting decisions.

EXCLUSIVE REPORTING

Politics are just one part of life in a small town, but our political choices affect all the other ways we experience community day-to-day. The types of businesses we walk past, the restaurants we bring our families to, the park amenities we enjoy, the level of safety we feel on our streets and in our schools, the historic landmarks we take pride in—these too are part of our community experience and our political obligation. So this print issue also includes those stories, stories that no other newspaper is reporting.

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Thank you for supporting community news. And thank you for using the information we provide to make your own decisions about our elected leaders and about participating in community life. ■



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The Lansing Journal provides balanced, trustworthy, local news in a way that builds community in Lansing, Illinois, and the surrounding region.

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STAFF

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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.

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“CANDIDATES,” from page 2

spent giving talks in schools about the dangers of marijuana.

“I have a big problem with cannabis dispensaries in our town or any other town,” Zeldenrust said.

GAMING

Zeldenrust also explained why he has consistently voted against allowing gaming in village establishments.

Zeldenrust said he has wit-

nessed addictions in his own or extended family.

“It also goes to what type of village that I want to leave to our kids and grandkids,” Zeldenrust said. “So I don’t think gambling has a place in our local businesses.”

Abbasy said ideally there would not be a need for gaming in restaurants but explained why he has voted in favor of some gaming proposals.

“Our businesses are facing tough times in our community,”

Abbasy said. “They’re fighting against high property taxes from our county. They’re dealing with high costs of paying wages because of state mandates and county mandates. They need revenue sources.”

DOLTON

Collins was asked to respond regarding whether the negative vibe of Dolton politics might carry over into Lansing if he were elected.

He said as chief of police in

Dolton he has made sure the police stay unbiased and out of politics.

“My affiliation with Dolton absolutely has nothing to do with the place that I live and lay my head,” Collins said.

SENIOR HOUSING

Penny Sumner, a resident of Lansing since 1976, asked the candidates if there are plans for senior housing in Lansing.

Collins said he was unaware of any, and Abbasy said plans would

be considered if presented by developers.

Grady-Perovich said she is in favor of adding senior housing.

“Anytime we can keep our seniors in their hometown I think is a great idea,” she said.

After the forum concluded, Sumner said it was an educational experience.

“I thought that it was very well managed and the time keeper was right on it,” Sumner said. ■



JERRY ZELDENRUST

Education: Bachelors Degree in Criminal Justice

Occupation: Police Commander, retired

Resumé highlights:

- Lansing Police Officer for 29 years
- Chief of Public Safety at the Moody Bible Institute for 5 years
- Village Trustee for 6 years

Goals and promises:

My goals as trustee are to continue the good work we in the Village Voice Party have accomplished in these past 6 years, expanding our street paving and sidewalk maintenance, equipping and staffing our police and fire departments, and enhancing our economic development. I am excited about helping Lansing evolve, keeping what makes it special while embracing changes that serve its needs and its people. Balanced budgets, fiscal responsibility, and building for our future are all things that the Village Voice Party has set as priorities for our residents since the day it was established. I am proud to be a founding member of our group and promise to continue to operate on these principles. That proven track record of success is what voters can depend on. ■



perception of safety. I also will work to ensure that we attract quality reputable business to Lansing, as well as keep the businesses that already serve Lansing.

MAUREEN GRADY-PEROVICH

Education:

Doctorate in Nursing Practice with emphasis on Certification in Emergency Nursing, Administration, and Nursing Education

Occupation: Retired nurse and Professor of Nursing

Resumé highlights:

- Lansing Village Trustee (2017 to 2021)
- Board Member of Lansing Area Chamber of Commerce
- Board Member of Lansing Association for Community Events

Goals and promises:

1. Serving Lansing First through fact-based decision-making and a willingness to articulate the rationale behind my decision-making process.
2. Serving Lansing First through a strong history of volunteerism.
3. Serving Lansing First through active listening to all stakeholders and following up with their thought, idea, or concern to effect change.

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District 215 School Board candidates

Three seats open; three candidates running

LANSING, Ill. (February 2023) – Thornton Fractional High School District 215 includes TF South in Lansing, TF North in Calumet City, the Thornton Fractional Center for Academics and Technology in Calumet City, and the Thornton Fractional Center for Alternative Learning in Calumet City. The district serves families in Lansing, Calumet City, Burnham, and Lynwood and is governed by an elected seven-member board. The board is responsible for approving curriculum, directing the Superintendent, establishing student behavior policies, communicating school activities to the community, and more.

This year three candidates are running to fill three open positions.

DOMINIQUE NEWMAN

Residence: Lansing
Education: Master's of Communication and Creative Arts - Purdue University Northwest
Occupation: Public Information Officer, Illinois Department of Juvenile Justice
Resumé highlights:

- Thornton Fractional School District 215 Assistant to Superintendent and Board of Ed./Public Relations Officer (2019-22)
- Adjunct Professor of Communication - Prairie State College (2018-19)
- League of Women Voters Homewood-Flossmoor Board of Directors (2016-2021)

Goals and promises:
1. Quantifiable progress on achieving equity for all students in all things. This may require some policy



change but will more so require a method for ensuring adherence to current policies and method for measuring progress.

- Elevation of student voice and parent feedback to Board of Education. This will require commitment to diligently and consistently educate students/families on current opportunities for communicating with Board. It will also require creation of new and innovative opportunities that invite feedback (such as formal student and/or parent representation at Board meetings).
- Improvement of academics and extracurriculars. This will require collecting and analyzing data and making decisions accordingly. This will also require soliciting the expertise and experience of staff, students, parents, etc. and implementing policies and practices based on data and feedback.
- Rigorous examination of current data, policies, and practices related to student discipline as measured against other Illinois school districts. This will require an in-depth look at current practices and will need to include students' experiences and voices.
- Improvement of school culture. This will require substantive input from staff and students and measurable goals for which administrators are responsible.

PATRICIA STEPP

Residence: Lansing
Education:
Occupation:
Resumé highlights:

- 2017–2021 District 215 Board of Education



Member / Secretary / Chair of Finance Committee
Goals and promises:
My desire to return to the District 215 Board Of Education is to maintain and implement policies and procedures, to elevate the district. To ensure ALL our students reach their full potential while being entrusted in our places of learning. To be lifelong learners, prepared for their futures.



JACQUELINE TERRAZAS

Residence: Lansing
Education: Associate Degree in Communications
Occupation: Bilingual Teacher Assistant
Resumé highlights:

- Been in education since 2015
- Proud SEA Union member
- Executive PTA member since 2017
- Lansing Special Volunteer Recipient 2016
- Union Negotiating Team
- Common Ground member

- Goals and promises:**
- Being the first Hispanic School Board member at District 215
 - Committing to a vision of high expectations for student achievement and quality instruction
 - Equity for all students
 - Elevation of student voice and parent feedback
 - Improved academics and extracurricular activities
 - Increased cultural competency
 - Having a collaborative relationship with staff and the community

More information about the Thornton Fractional High School District 215 School Board is available online at www.tfd215.org/boardofeducation. ■

District 158 School Board candidates

Four seats open; four candidates running

LANSING, Ill. (February 2023) – School District 158 is composed of Coolidge Elementary School, the Lester Crawl Primary Center, Memorial Junior High School, Oak Glen Elementary School, and Reavis Elementary School in Lansing. The district is governed by an elected seven-member board. The board is responsible for approving curriculum, directing the Superintendent, establishing student behavior policies, communicating school activities to the community, and more.

This year four candidates are running to fill four open positions. The information below is all that has been provided to The Lansing Journal.

ABIMAEEL DURAN
Residence: Lansing
Education: Masters in Accounting
Occupation: Accounting Manager
Resumé highlights:

- Current School Board member for



- School District 158
- Former soccer coach, Lansing Soccer Club
 - Dad of two children who attend/attended Lansing public schools
 - Volunteer in various capacities (church/community)

Goals and promises: Continue to serve our community by working as a member of the local school board to improve student achievement in School District 158.



MARY KELLY
Residence: Lansing
Education:
Occupation: US government (42 years)
Resumé highlights:

- Children number one priority
- Continue to strengthen student performance and academic achievement
- Donated 2,325 refurbished laptop computers to families
- Continue to forge a strong relationship with the community
- District secured Property Tax Relief

Lansing Library Board candidates

Three seats open; three candidates running

LANSING, Ill. (March 1, 2023) – Lansing's Library Board oversees the Library Director and is responsible for reviewing and approving the library's budget. The board comprises seven members, and trustees serve a six-year term. Mozella Brown is a current board member and is running for re-election. Steve Carr and Yvette Farmer are also running this year. None of these three candidates replied to The Lansing Journal's requests for information about their qualifications and goals for the library. ■

Trustees of Schools candidates

One seat open; one write-in candidate running

SOUTH Holland, Ill. (March 2, 2023) - The Thornton Fractional Trustees of Schools provide consolidated financial services for school districts, ostensibly to reduce operating costs and maximize interest earnings through pooled funds investing. The Lansing Journal received information from James Adduci, who is running as a write-in candidate to retain the seat he accepted after one of the trustees passed away. Adduci is a retired lawyer and college administrator who has lived in Lansing 53 years and is running for a six-year term. "I understand how important education is to improve the quality of life of our community," he wrote in the form he completed. "I will continue to protect assets of our schools, keeping our schools on the path to greatness. WRITE IN JAMES ADDUCI."



LOCAL NEWS

Financial gifts this year from the people on this page make this community newspaper possible. These supporters do not give for recognition, but we list their names in order to (1) thank them publicly, and (2) let readers see how many people are involved in bringing them community news.

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Tim Vermeer
Sandy Vree
Kenya Wafford
Sandra Wagner
Scott Wagner
Phyllis Warsen
Waters Edge Aquascaping
David Wilford
Beverly Wilhelm
Adrienne Winchester
Nancy and Bob Wojcik
Ron and Joan Wolford
Bob and Jean Wood
Michael and Dana Wood
Jennifer Yos
Patricia Yos
Chris Zdanowski
Char Zralka
Noel Zupancic

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Thank you Lansing Journal. I would really like to be informed on any voting that occurs in Lansing. I need to be better educated on the politics side of things.

Thank you for highlighting the amazing restaurants in our little village.

I'm very glad to see and hear about all the new establishments coming into our area and am grateful for a local news source dedicated to bringing all this information to us.

Thanks again for all the work you guys do with the Journal & our town of Lansing!

Dear Lansing Journal Staff,
Thank you all for your faithful, upbeat 'reportage' for our community. It never fails to put a smile on my day!

I am happy and proud to identify with the group of Lansing Journal supporters. I personally know that our monthly, annual, or 1-time financial contribution helps to empower The Lansing Journal to be independent of agendas and to be a consistent provider of unbiased local reporting. I intend to be equally consistent with my financial support and annually increasing that support. I consider a community paper to be essential to the ecosystem that we call community.

I support financially the Lansing Journal and have since the beginning because I appreciate having a local paper, and all of the work put into the Lansing Community. And also, it is soooo easy and convenient to financially support The Lansing Journal.

Thank you for all the work you do in publishing the Journal. I was struck this month by the diversity of subjects you cover and the skill you display in doing so. Items from politics to stickers, Covid to crime, human interest to current events. Impressive.

Longtime Sunnybrook 171 Board Member not on April 4 ballot due to petition objection

Three seats open; four candidates running Cozette Pettigrew off the ballot; Tammara Hill remains on after overruled objection

PAUL CZAPKOWICZ
LANSING, Ill. (March 3, 2023) – There will be one less candidate to choose from when voters go to the polls on April 4 to decide the makeup of the Sunnybrook School District 171 School Board. Four candidates (Desiree Ambrose, Derrick Burks, Tammara Hill, and Timothy Terrell) will compete for three spots up for election.

Noticeably absent from the list of candidates is longtime board member Cozette Pettigrew, whose name will not be on the ballot after a challenge was filed regarding her candidacy. Pettigrew has served on the board since 2013, including two stints as board president, which is a role she currently fills.

OBJECTION OUSTS PETTIGREW

But an objection to Pettigrew's nomination papers was made by a Valencia Williams, and the Cook County Officers Electoral Board decided Pettigrew's name should not be included on the ballot.

It was determined that Pettigrew failed to comply with the minimum number of required valid signatures in her nomination petition sheets.

Pettigrew said that while she is “disappointed” to be off the ballot,

she admitted that an oversight on her part caused the lack of signatures.

Pettigrew said a sheet she used for signatures was obtained electronically from someone from another district and she failed to remove the name of the other school district from the bottom of the sheet.

“One of the circulars wasn't consistent with the rest of them,” Pettigrew said. She said that caused the entire page in question to be discounted.

“I didn't have enough signatures to compensate for losing a whole sheet,” she said.

The Electoral Board held a hearing regarding the matter on January 5 and issued a continuance until January 12, but Pettigrew was unable to attend either time following her mother's sudden passing.

Pettigrew said she had never had her papers challenged in the past, but could not call the decision for her removal an unfair one.

“I think we're all under the impression that we should always know that anything can happen and that you should have way more than the required amount in case someone does challenge you,” Pettigrew said.

Pettigrew believes she will

leave the board a more transparent one than when she joined it and said she is proud of implementing the process that now makes all school board meetings available live online so those who cannot attend can stay informed.

Pettigrew said she did not recognize the name of the person who challenged her paperwork. “You don't know the motive behind it,” she said.

HILL OBJECTION OVERRULED

Pettigrew was not the only individual whose papers were challenged, but the Electoral Board ruled to allow Tammara Hill's name to appear on the ballot.

“I don't know what spurred it,” said Hill, a Lynwood resident and former teacher who is running for school board for the first time.

But Hill said Valencia Williams, the person who filed objections against her and Pettigrew, is the sister of Derrick Burks, who is also a candidate for the school board.

Williams was unable to be reached, and Burks refused to verify that Williams is his sister.

Burks said he did not want to be interviewed for this story.

“I don't want to be involved in drama,” Burks said. “That's not what I'm running for.”

Hill thinks the Electoral

Board's ruling to allow her on the ballot is the correct one.

“They found out that my signatures were correct,” Hill said.

Besides questioning the number of valid signatures, another objection to Hill's paperwork had to do with if she properly declared the office being sought in her statement of candidacy, but the Electoral Board ruled in Hill's favor.

Hill said she was surprised at all she had to go through with the challenge for what she said is a volunteer position.

“I was frustrated that I had to—for two days in a row—go to court over this,” Hill said. “You know, that was a long process.”

ABOUT THE SCHOOL BOARD

Sunnybrook School District 171 consists of Nathan Hale Elementary School and Heritage Middle School and serves students from Lansing and Lynwood. The board is responsible for approving curriculum, directing the Superintendent, establishing student behavior policies, communicating school activities to the community, and more.

This year four candidates are running to fill three open positions. Only one candidate responded to The Lansing Journal's request for information.

TAMMARA HILL

Residence: Lynwood

Education: Bachelor of Science

Occupation: Volunteer Advocate

Resumé highlights:

- Retired high school science teacher
- Volunteer advocate for incapacitated adults
- Cancer society survivor and volunteer

Goals and promises:

1. To bring transparency to budget and set goals for improving education of Sunnybrook students.
2. To support the teachers and unification of community for Sunnybrook improvement.
3. To help make decisions that will move the district forward, improving math and science classes and increasing tutoring.

DESIREE AMBROSE

No information provided.

DERRICK BURKS

No information provided.

TIMOTHY TERELL

No information provided.

More information about the District 171 School Board is available online at www.sd171.org/en-US/school-board-370af275. ■

reached out to all the candidates and invited them to complete our Candidate Info form, so that we could share it with the Lansing public and keep them informed about the people involved in making decisions about our network of parks and programs.

Only one Lan-Oak Park Board Commissioner responded.

GINA AGUILAR

Residence: Lansing

Education:

Occupation: Financial Advisor, Thrivent-Lakeshore Group

Resumé highlights:

- Resident of Lansing since 1998; married with 2 children—son graduated from TF South in 2021; daughter will graduate from TF South this year in 2023.
 - My career in Financial Services began in 1991. I joined Thrivent in 2008 and have a successful career as an Associate with the Lakeshore Group, a fee-based planning practice within Thrivent with offices in Crete, Valparaiso, and Crown Point.
 - Trustee for Lansing's Police Pension Fund since 2010
 - Lan-Oak Park Board Commissioner since 2021
- Goals and promises:** I would like all families to get as much enjoyment from our community and Park District as we do.

The Cook County Clerk website also lists write-in candidates in a separate page of their website: www.cookcountyclerk.il.gov/elections/current-elections/2023-elections/april-4-2023-write-candidates. On that page we found one write-in candidate for Lan-Oak Park District: James Shaffer, Commissioner (Unexpired Two-Year Term). ■



South Suburban College School Board candidates

LANSING, Ill. (February 27, 2023) – With a population of 28,379, Lansing is the third largest of the 18 villages in District 510 served by South Suburban College. The South Suburban College Board of Trustees is responsible for appointing the college president and establishing his or her salary, setting policies for governing the college, approving the annual budget, and more. South Suburban College has a seven-member board, and trustees are elected to four-year or six-year terms. This year, one four-year seat and three six-year seats are available.

One four-year seat open; two candidates running

MAX SOLOMON

Residence: Hazel Crest

Education: J.D./M.Th.

Occupation: Attorney

Resumé highlights:

- Attorney licensed in Illinois and Indiana
- Former Adjunct Professor, South Suburban College
- Ordained Christian Minister

Goals and promises: Expansion of College programs, with a special focus on affordable technical and trade training for young adults.

KEVIN. A. DALY

No information provided.

Three six-year seats open; eight candidates running

SHERELENE A. HARRIS

Residence: South Holland

Education: Doctorate - Educational Leadership [Ed.D.]

Occupation: Educator - Retired Associate Professor

Resumé highlights:

1. Retired Professor, Chicago State University, College of Education
2. Former School Administrator, Chicago Public Schools [AP-Alex Haley Academy]
3. Former CPS Classroom Teacher. Taught grades PreK-8th; Civil Servant with City of Chicago prior to completing Bachelor of Arts in Education.

Goals and promises: It is my desire to work in cohort with the administration of South Suburban Community College and the Board of Trustees to bring the best programs, facilities, faculty, and staff to work toward

fulfilling students' academic goals, vocational pursuits, and continuing education goals which can aid in developing their skill sets, personal interests, and/or hobbies to create a self-fulfilling life thereby becoming positive contributors to our communities and society as a whole.

VENISE HAYNES

Residence: Hazel Crest

Education: Bachelor's degree in business from Chicago State University, Master's degree in Technology & Education from Chicago State University. Doctorate degree in Adult Continuing & Higher Education from Northern Illinois University in Dekalb, Illinois.

Occupation: Retired

Resumé highlights: I am a retired educational professional and a nearly 26-year resident of Hazel Crest. I served at South Suburban College in the department of Adult Education, Richard J. Daley College as an Adjunct Professor in the department of Social Science, and at The Art Institute as an online professor where I taught Introduction to Computer Science.

Prior to academia, I was a carpenter for Chicago Transit Authority and later a manager in the department of Bus Heavy Maintenance. I understand what it means to be a non-traditional student as I did while working full-time and raising four daughters by herself.

My involvement in the community is as a food transitions coach, where I guide individuals in matters of nutrition in order to help their bodies heal from illnesses. I also teach people to choose vegan meals and instruct them on purchasing and preparing products. My vision is to see communities changing to a healthy diet in order to achieve optimal health. I not only talk the talk but walk the walk as I have been vegan for over 20 years.

I will bring significant educational leadership to the South Suburban College Board.

Goals and promises: To not only listen but hear the concerns of people in an effort to examine the full picture. To assist in the continuation of providing quality education for everyone.

KISHA E. MCCASKILL

Residence: Harvey

Education: PhDs. Public Service Administration and Organizational Leadership (Capella); MSA. Public Service Administration (Spertus Jewish Institute); BS. Psychology and Sociology (Western Illinois University); Certifications in Conflict Resolution and Mediation, Business Management, Project Management, and Paralegal Services

Occupation: Executive Director Harvey Park Districts

Resumé highlights: During my tenures with the Harvey Park District, with Harvey School District 152 Bylaw/Policy and Finance Committees, and with the Illinois Department of Employment Security, I:

1. Relieved park district of \$4.6 million deficit within first two years of employment and addressed 15 legal matters (contracted in 05/2015). Under my administrative leadership the district currently has surplus, is in good standing with the state, has zero legal matters, all balanced budgets and levy, passed seven annual audits, grant worthy and in good standing with GATA, and we provide the best and most consistent programming in the past eight years.
2. Identified and addressed budget issues causing cross utilization and repetitive services, decreased legal fees, and forecasted areas of improvement to prevent misappropriation of funds across all departments.
3. Subject matter expert for the inception of the Illinois Job Link Employment System Unemployment Insurance Claims and Employment connections (as Deputy Director of Employment Outreach Services). I was responsible for reinvigorating employment services to general jobseekers, veterans, youth, re-entry, and women in workplace.

We are looking for outstanding paraprofessionals, special education teachers, and faculty in the areas of ELA and music/choir to join our team! Benefits include dental insurance, paid sick and personal days, and a Board of Education-supported life insurance policy.



Contact Lansing School District 158 for more info:

- www.d158.net
- 708-474-6700
- 18300 Greenbay Ave. Lansing, IL 60438

Goals and promises: As an active Trustee I will work with the Board and collaborate with administrators to develop a roadmap for a better future for the students, faculty, and staff. This includes but is not limited to:

1. Increasing student enrollment, program completion, and graduation rates. Inclusive and equitable.
2. Increasing SSC's onsite presence in communities by partnering with local resources and municipal governments to provide onsite hybrid learning. This will also assist with early assessments to help significantly reduce the number of remedial classes. As an Adjunct Professor I understand the barriers to student comprehension and challenges of online learning. More accessible locations will help to eliminate the barriers and increase enrollment. Early assessments will assist with more informed curricula at the feeder school level.
3. Increasing affordability to decrease student loan debt, especially for those students who exhaust funding sources without completion. Ongoing internal departmental audits to assess student success and personal challenges that may result in incompleteness and high debt.

RONNELL "ART" TATUM

Residence: Riverdale

Education: South Suburban College

Occupation: Farmer/Gardener Coordinator

Resumé highlights:

1. 2014-2016 SSC SGA President
2. 2016-2018 SSC Student Trustee
3. 2014-2018 Vice-Chairman of Thornton Township Young Democrats

Goals and promises: I will be the direct link of communication between the youth and the elders, the student body staff, administrators, and board, to maintain understanding balance and influence in the works and processes of our education plans.

TERRY R. WELLS

Residence: Phoenix

Education: Bachelors Degree from Illinois State University,

Masters Degree From National Louis University

Occupation: Retired Teacher

Resumé highlights:

I am running for reelection to the Board of Trustees at South Suburban College (SSC). I have been on the board since 2001 and was named Chairman of the Board last year.

I am also the Mayor of the Village of Phoenix, a position I have held since 1993, making me one of the longest serving mayors in the State of Illinois. I am the President of the Southland Regional Mayoral Black Caucus, and in 2021 I was named Chicago Defender Man of Excellence. I received the Jefferson Award for excellence in teaching in 2016 and was inducted into the Thornton High School Hall of Fame in 2019. In 2017 I retired from teaching at Thornton High School where I worked for 25 years as a History Teacher and Worked Based Coordinator. I have devoted 37 years of teaching from Middle School to High School. I could not have chosen a more rewarding career.

My wife Loretta and I have been married for 37 years and have 3 children.

Goals and promises: My goal is to continue to bring quality programs to South Suburban College. We just opened a Barber College last year; this fall we plan on opening a Cosmetology School on campus as well. We have a Construction Trades program that is growing in numbers. We are preparing students for the large infrastructure improvements that will soon be available in the construction field. We are going to break ground for our new Allied Health and Science building later this year. This 50-million-dollar project will train the next generation of health care professionals. It is my goal to bring programs to SSC that will train our residents for jobs that will be in high demand. If you would like to start your own business, the Barber and Cosmetology may be your thing. If you're looking to work in an area where there is a huge demand, then we have it in Construction Trades and Allied Health and Science. If your finances are not ready for you to enroll in a four-year institution, then you can get an Associate Degree from SSC and save money. My goal is to make sure that we have a variety of programs available for everyone.

VINCENT E. LOCKETT

No information provided.

TANJUNIQUE D. MILLER

No information provided.

ANTHONY W. WILLIAMS

No information provided. ■



D158 School Board: highlights from the February 15 meeting

BY QUINTON ARTHUR

LANSING, Ill. (February 18, 2023) – Lansing School District 158 held its February board meeting on Wednesday the 15th, celebrating the winner of the inaugural vehicle sticker contest and highlighting the Equity Audit done in early February.

VEHICLE STICKER

Over 15,000 vehicles in Lansing display a vehicle sticker. For the first time, the new sticker design has been created by a Lansing student.

The vehicle sticker contest was a collaboration between the Village of Lansing and the Lansing Human Relations Commission. Lansing students from sixth to eighth grade were encouraged to submit their designs. (See story in sidebar.)

Of the 39 designs submitted, Memorial Junior High School seventh-grader Cidney Parker’s was chosen as first place winner. In addition to receiving a \$50 Gayety’s gift card, Parker will see her design used on Lansing vehicle stickers this summer.

Parker presented her design to the District 158 School Board during the meeting, a drawing of a tree alongside a recycling bin that reads, “Make Lansing Litter Free.”

Cidney hopes her vehicle sticker design will encourage people to recycle and keep the community clean.

EQUITY AUDIT

District 158 conducted an Equity audit the first two days in February, led by the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) committee.

- The audit had several purposes:
- Clarify direction as a committee and school district
- Develop a roadmap concerning next steps and representation of all
- Identify areas of improvement as a school district in the area of DEI
- Recognize areas of investigation and growth as a school district

- Engage in self-reflection and self-awareness with the district concerning possible overlooked areas of need
 - Develop a framework for growth
- The audit was conducted by Dr. Sheldon Eakins, founder of the Leading Equity Center, a multi-platform business that delivers actionable discussion of how to transform a classroom or school into a more equitable place. Eakins was recommended by DEI committee member Angela Salva.

The audit examined the school’s mission, vision, and beliefs; leadership; staff and staff development; instructional practices; representation; disciplinary practices; communication, feedback, and decision-making.

After receiving the audit results, the district will choose two target areas to focus on with SMART goals.

“The big picture is for the committee to start looking at district practices and making recommendations for improvement,” said Dr. Nathan Schilling, District 158 Superintendent.

The DEI committee has two planned upcoming activities.

The first is a book study on *Culturally Responsive Teaching & The Brain* by Zaretta Hammond. The book has three sections about building awareness and knowledge, learning partnerships, and intellectual capacity.

The second is a Cultural Festival. The celebration is to help promote intercultural understanding and showcase various communities’ cultural expression. The event will feature cultural performances, food from around the world, games, and other activities. The event is tentatively scheduled for April 18, 2024, and will be open to families.

SCHOOL SAFETY

Although the subject of school safety was not on the February 15 agenda, Board Member James Long

revisited the topic under New Business.

“I brought up a fact to the board, if you recall, what about the teachers? What has been done about that?” asked Long, referring to an earlier decision to require District 158 students to use clear backpacks. This decision came after a Coolidge Elementary student brought an unloaded 9mm Beretta pistol to school in their backpack.

Dr. Schilling mentioned when they started the process, there was a limited supply, so ordering backpacks for the students was the priority.

“The administrative team didn’t believe that at this time that it was in the best interest of the district to move forward with something for staff,” said Dr. Schilling.

“May I ask why ... are we going to wait for a shooting before we do anything?” replied Long.

Long expressed the need to be proactive in the situation. He questioned whether the preventive measures in place are enough.

School Board President Mary Kelly mentioned utilizing magnetometers as a way to guarantee detection of guns.

As the conversation continued, Dr. Schilling stated the school board has brought up the idea of metal detectors to committees before, but the determination based on research is that it creates a prison-like environment not conducive to learning.

Kelly said it should be something the school board should look into further. Dr. Schilling asked about gathering information about metal detectors and current issues in school safety, to which all of the board agreed.

More information about District 158 is available at www.d158.net. ■



From left, Elizabeth Alons took third place in the contest, Cidney Parker took first, and DeEric Gilbert took second. (Photo: Josh Bootsma)

Winner announced in first vehicle sticker design contest

BY JOSH BOOTSMA

LANSING, Ill. (February 12, 2023) – At the February 7 Village Board meeting, Village Clerk Vivian Payne explained that a design contest was held in collaboration between the Village and the Lansing Human Relations Commission to determine a new design for the next sticker season, which starts on July 1.

“The contest was open to sixth through eighth grade students that go to school here in Lansing. And the theme for the contest was ‘Litter-free Lansing,’” Payne said.

Thirty-nine submissions were received, and the top three were recognized at the board meeting.

Third place winner was Elizabeth Alons, a seventh-grader from Lansing Christian School. Second place winner was DeEric Gilbert from Memorial Jr. High.

The first place winner, whose design will be seen on windshields across Lansing starting this summer, was Cidney Parker. Parker’s design featured a tree alongside a recycling bin that reads, “Make Lansing Litter Free.”

Parker is a seventh-grader at Memorial Jr. High and said she was “very excited” to win the competition. In her design she chose to “focus on recycling.” Parker is a National Honor Student, and is a member of the dance team at Memorial.

All three winners will receive a framed photo with Mayor Patty Eidam, as well as a framed copy of the artwork. Parker received a \$50 Gayety’s gift card for winning first place.

Vehicle stickers go on sale in Lansing on May 1, and must be displayed by July 1. More information is available on the Village of Lansing website. ■

NASA accepts science experiment from Unity Christian Academy student team

Experiment scheduled to launch May 7

BY JENNIFER YOS

SOUTH HOLLAND, Ill. (March 5, 2023) – On January 12, 2023, a team of science students from Unity Christian Academy in South Holland received a notification from NASA. They were one of 60 winning teams whose flight-test experiment proposals were accepted for the 2022-23 TechRise Student Challenge.

The TechRise Student Challenge is a program led by NASA’s Flight Opportunities and administered by Future Engineers. It is designed to engage sixth- to 12th-grade students in technology, science, and space exploration.

This year about 500 students representing 38 states and territories were involved, according to futureengineers.org.

PREPARING TO LAUNCH

As one of the 60 winning teams, UCA has been granted a budget of \$1,500 to build their science and technology experiment. The experiment has been given a spot on one of two NASA-sponsored high-altitude balloon flights later this year. On each balloon, 30 experiments will be conducted from the hanging gondola. Data will be collected as the balloons ascend to approximately 70,000 feet into the stratosphere, floating there for at least four hours.

Winning teams receive technical support from Future Engineers advisors, who are available to video chat each week during the build phase of the experiment.

FROM CLASSROOM ASSIGNMENT TO REALITY

UCA science teacher Tom Findysz learned about the TechRise Student Challenge through a retired science teacher who judged TechRise Challenge proposals in



The UCA science team working on the NASA project, from left: Amir Anthony, UCA science teacher Tom Findysz, Saniya Alderson, Molena Rover, Keilah Jackson, Laylah Elmore, Amad Anthony, and Samuel Williams. Not pictured: Raphael Landing-Stewart. (Photo: Charis Bootsma)

Pennsylvania. In September of 2022, Findysz asked his science students to team up in order to brainstorm, design, and submit TechRise Challenge experiment proposals as part of a classroom assignment. The proposals answered the questions: What is the experiment idea? How do you imagine it will work? Why do you want to conduct this experiment?

UCA’s winning proposal was initiated by science students Saniya Alderson and Keilah Jackson, who were both interested in learning more about radioactivity. UCA students Laylah Elmore, Amad Anthony, Amir Anthony, Samuel Williams, Raphael Landing-Stewart, and Malena Rover subsequently joined their team.

camera the students put together in order to watch their launch live. The UCA team will receive their Geiger counter data after the flight.

The UCA team’s radiation experiment is scheduled to be launched on an Aerostar high-altitude balloon out of Sioux Falls, South Dakota, on May 7—weather conditions permitting. The other balloon launched as part of the nationwide challenge is provided by World View based in Tucson, Arizona, and will be launched separately.

Unity Christian Academy is located at 16341 South Park Avenue in South Holland. ■

FLIGHT CREW RADIOACTIVITY TEST

The UCA team’s winning proposal is to test radioactive exposure to fabric samples at commercial flight altitudes. Saniya Alderson explains the “Why?” of their experiment: “We both wanted something to do with helping people, so that’s when we found out that flight attendants and pilots are not considered radioactive workers They are put in that category, but they don’t have any of the protection that a normal radioactive worker would have.”

Their experiment involves sending up small fabric swatches of clothing that is typically worn by pilots and flight attendants, insulating the swatches in a manner similar to how a commercial jet airliner is insulated, and measuring with a Geiger counter the radioactive exposure to the swatches while they are in flight.

A TechRise Student Challenge kit is sent to all winners. The kit includes a dash

Free Admission September 29 & 30, 2023

Friday & Saturday

LANSING AUTUMN FEST

at Fox Pointe

Lansing Cruise Night Dates:

June 10
July 8
August 5

August 26
&
at Phillips Chevrolet

on Ridge Road



Lansing Cruise Night

THE HEART OF LANSING

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

Drawing at

Queen

7:00 PM

of

Hearts Raffle

Every Tuesday until the Queen is Found!

at Pour on Roy

Last ticket sold at 6:45 pm

The Village of Lansing

Patricia L. Eidam, Mayor | Dan Podgorski, Village Administrator

YARD WASTE/LEAF PICK-UP

Yard waste season begins in April, and Lansing Public Works and Building Department staff want to remind all residents:

- Lawns must be maintained at a maximum height of 6" or lower.
- Residents with alleys are responsible for cutting and maintaining those areas.

BRANCHES

The Public Works Department will pick up and remove tree branches only when they are left BY THE FRONT CURB ON THE ASSIGNED GARBAGE DAY. Public Works vehicles do not travel down any alleys and will not remove branches left there.

RECYCLING

Recycling is picked up on a bi-weekly basis. Recyclable items should be placed in the toters with the YELLOW lid and left BY THE FRONT CURB ONLY. The recycling trucks do not travel down alleys and will not remove recycling items left there. Regarding proper disposal of grass, leaves, and other yard waste:

- All yard waste, including leaves, should be placed in the toter with the GREEN lid or in brown paper yard waste bags (no plastic bags).
- Toters should then be placed where your weekly garbage pickup is conducted.

To rent additional toters for your leaves or yard waste, CONTACT HOMEWODE DISPOSAL AT (708) 798-1004.



The Village of Lansing thanks you in advance for your cooperation with these policies.

For more important news and information about Lansing, visit villageoflansing.org.

3141 Ridge Rd. Lansing, IL 60438 | 708-895-7200 | Fax: 708-895-6878 | www.villageoflansing.org

Effin Egg plans to open in Lansing

BY PAUL CZAPKOWICZ
LANSING, Ill. (March 6, 2023) – If the food doesn't get your attention, the name of the place likely will, as an Effin Egg franchise is getting ready to set up shop in Lansing.

The location in the center of the strip mall at 17030 Torrence Avenue used to house a dry cleaning business but will soon serve up gourmet breakfast sandwiches, tacos, burritos, pancakes, waffles, and its own signature coffee from 6 a.m. to 3 p.m. daily.

LOCALLY-OWNED

A young Lansing resident, Parth Patel, is the driving force behind the new restaurant.

Salutatorian of the TF South class of 2021, Patel has ambitions beyond running a restaurant.

"I want to be a doctor," he said. "So I'm going to go to med school. So I wanted to finance that, and a way would be to make a family business."

Patel said his father, Balwant Patel, who makes his living as an Uber driver, provided the money to start the business.

Parth Patel said Effin Egg is a new concept to the restaurant industry and a growing franchise.

The Effin Egg website shows only locations in Georgia and New York but with others coming soon in several other states. Naperville and Northbrook are other sites in Illinois soon to get a bite of an Effin Egg.

One of the franchise's sandwiches is the "CEO," which includes cage-free soft scrambled eggs, cheddar cheese, caramelized onions, chipotle "Effy Sauce," and a brioche bun.

Patel said economics played a big role in choosing to open an Effin Egg franchise.

"It was very profitable and it's low cost, that's why," he said. "So it's high margins versus low cost."

LANSING BACKGROUND

Patel is a product of School District 158, having attended Reavis Elementary and Memorial Junior High School. He is now a sophomore studying Pre-Med at Concordia University Chicago in River Forest.

Patel said his father suggested finding an existing or closed restaurant space to take over instead of doing an entire renovation, but Patel had other thoughts.

"I wanted to invest in Lansing so it helps out our community," he said.

Patel said he loves the village where he grew up and

remarked on the friendliness of its people.

Patel received permit approval in early

February to do construction that he said includes "everything from plumbing to electricity."

"We have to break up the concrete, put new piping, put new walls, new bathrooms," Patel said. "Because it was just a shell space."

When complete, the restaurant should be able to accommodate 30 to 40 people.

There will be no drive-thru nor table service. Customers will be able to order at the counter and eat in or take their food to go.

March 6 is the scheduled date when construction will be completed, and Patel is figuring on opening in April or May.

FAMILY AFFAIR

The business truly will be a family affair as Patel's father and his mother, Pallavi, are expected to work at Effin Egg along with his sister, Pruthvi.

"And then we'll look for employees, as well, if needed," Patel said.

Pruthvi is a senior at TF South High School and said since she and Parth were young their parents always wanted to open a restaurant. She plans to work either in the kitchen with her mother or at the front counter.

Pruthvi Patel referred to Effin Egg as a "fast casual" restaurant and figures its location near the expressway should attract customers.

"A lot of people, breakfast is their main course....it just makes their day better," she said.

Pruthvi Patel said she is impressed with her brother's initiative.

"I'm actually very proud of him because, like, I never thought we were going to open our own business," she said.

Effin Egg will be located at 17030 Torrence Avenue, in the River Place strip mall. ■

To stay informed about business and other local developments in our community, subscribe to The Lansing Journal online. Scan the QR or visit thelansingjournal.com/subscribe. Subscribers receive 2–5 headlines in their email inbox each morning—all local stories reported, published, and delivered by local people.

Parth Patel's Effin Egg restaurant will be located in the River Place strip mall. (Photo: Josh Bootsma)



Ramen restaurant Hotaru to replace Golden Palace

Owner Krystal Goins hopeful for April opening

BY JOSH BOOTSMA

LANSING, Ill. (March 5, 2023) – When Krystal Goins moved to Lansing in 2006, she took special notice of the building at 3307 Ridge Road, which was at that time Golden Palace.

"I thought, 'Wow, what would I do if I had that building?'" she remembers.

Now, after years of planning and working with the Village of Lansing, Goins does have the building, and she is planning on turning it into an upscale ramen restaurant called Hotaru.

AUTHENTIC JAPANESE FOOD IN LANSING

Goins is a Le Cordon Bleu-trained chef and has studied under Japanese culinary experts. She's done various chef work since 2007 while also working as an estimator for television networks such as Fox, Amazon, Disney, and Hulu. In a collision of professional worlds, a dish prepared by Goins was used in a show produced by Fox.

Lately, however, much of Goins' attention has been focused on opening her first restaurant.

The menu for Hotaru—which is Japanese for "firefly"—is not completely finalized, but a featured offering will be various types of ramen. Far different from the packages of dried noodles available in grocery stores, Goins' ramen will include high-quality ingredients shipped from Japan. And whereas microwave ramen takes just minutes to make, the pork-based broth of Goins' version takes 14 hours from start to finish.

"I'm definitely going to have good quality," Goins said. "I have to kind of un-learn people about what ramen is, and the ramen world."

Tonkotsu ramen will be one of the options on the menu. Tonkotsu means "pork bones" in Japanese and refers to the process of boiling pork bones in water for many hours to achieve a savory broth, which is the base of the soup. Other standard ingredients in tonkotsu ramen are sliced pork belly and ramen noodles, which are wheat noodles that come in a variety of thicknesses.

Goins is planning to source around 90% of the ingredients used at Hotaru from Japan.

"I wanted to bring that north side of Chicago feel to the area. I want to get people excited about this kind of food here," she said.

PROCESS AND TIMELINE

Golden Palace has been closed for years, and Goins has spent much time and effort dismantling and removing

much of the former restaurant to start with a clean slate.

"I needed five dumpsters just to get the old stuff cleaned out," she said. "And I still need one more."

New plumbing and a new layout have been a costly process. Goins is funding the project herself.

"There's no machine behind me funding this work, so my contractors have gone out of their way to accommodate me," she said.

The same attention to detail Goins has given the menu she's also given to the layout of the restaurant. For example, she wanted to make sure no food from the kitchen would ever need to pass a bathroom door to get to a diner.

As final approval is anticipated from the Village of Lansing on the plans for the construction, Goins is hopeful that Hotaru could open as soon as April.

FUTURE ASPIRATIONS

Eventually Goins also aspires to bring a rooftop dining element to Hotaru.

"I want to hurry up and get the main part opened first," Goins said. "Then I want to add all the extra pretty stuff later."

She also is exploring adding a yakitori grill element to the restaurant, allowing customers to cook their own meats at the table.

Overall, Goins is excited to finally open her own restaurant in the village where she's lived for the last 17



Top: The Golden Palace building has been vacant for many years. Above: At a June 2022 meeting of the Village Board, Krystal Goins shared her vision for what the remodeled building could look like. Plans have undergone changes in the months since and are not yet finalized, but Goins is hoping to open in April. (Photos: Melanie Jongsma)

years. She said, "I'm just hoping to bring that ramen culture here. It's really really huge and growing every day, and I'm hoping to bring that to Lansing."

The Hotaru restaurant will be located at 3307 Ridge Road in Lansing. ■

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Questions?
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So much Local Flavor

BY MELANIE JONGSMA
LANSING, Ill. (March 2023) – “Thank you Lansing Journal for creating the Local Flavor Award!” commented reader John Gonzalez in January. “I love seeing all the local food around Lansing that I might have missed.” Gonzalez’s comment captures one of the reasons The Lansing Journal launched the Local Flavor Award program in December of 2022: making readers aware of the uniquely local flavor in this community. Local Flavor Awards highlight food and beverage experiences that are available only in Lansing.

The program also benefits the broader community by attracting enthusiastic new business from out-of-town visitors. When visitors come to Lansing for a Fox Pointe concert, or when local families host guests from out of town, or when former residents return for a visit, where should they grab a meal? Any restaurant that has earned a Local Flavor Award from The Lansing Journal is a good place to start.

As of this writing, we have presented Local Flavor Awards to nine Lansing restaurants. For each award winner, we wrote an article describing the signature dish, dessert, and/or drink we experienced during our visit. Because of the limitations of print, we are not able to fit all those articles in this issue, so instead we have provided a QR code that can be scanned with a smart phone to link directly to the full article. We’ve also included the full name of the original article, which can be searched online.

Current Local Flavor Award recipients are listed below in alphabetical order:

Bottoms Up



The Bowtie Surf and Turf at Bottoms Up includes shrimp, chicken, and andouille sausage. (Photo: Melanie Jongsma)

The menu options at Bottoms Up include special-recipe soups, hand-breaded seafood, and made-to-order pasta sauce, all with rich, complex flavors served in generous portions.

SIGNATURE STARTER: HOUSE-MADE SOUP

There are approximately 20 homemade soups in the Bottoms Up rotation, and the soup of the day is chosen by the chef, who is sometimes influenced by customer requests. According to staff and customers alike, it is not uncommon for people to drive miles to Bottoms Up to purchase a quart of whatever soup is available—it reheats well and makes an easy next-day lunch.

SIGNATURE DISH: BOWTIE SURF AND TURF

The Bowtie Surf and Turf is a massive bowl of bowtie pasta mixed with chicken breast, andouille sausage, and shrimp, all tossed in a house-made “southwest Alfredo sauce,” and topped with parmesan cheese and spices. The southwest Alfredo sauce has all the creaminess of a homemade sauce, with the addition of a cajun spiciness that’s bold but not overpowering.

Bottoms Up is located at 1696 Thornton-Lansing Road in Lansing. Call 708-418-3877 or visit bottoms-uponline.com for more information.

Scan the QR code to read the full article with photos: “Bottoms Up—sounds like a bar; eats like your favorite restaurant”



Scan to read full Bottoms Up article

Dixie Kitchen



Dixie Kitchen’s signature Blackened Catfish pairs with home-made mac and cheese and greens. (Photo: Josh Bootsma)

Whether you want the crispy goodness of Southern fried chicken, or the slow heat of a Louisiana jambalaya, or traditional soul food favorites like greens and sweet potato mash, Dixie Kitchen has a range of flavorful spice combinations to please every palate.

SIGNATURE APPETIZER: FRIED GREEN TOMATOES

Fried Green Tomatoes are a staple in Southern eateries, and the ones we enjoyed at Dixie Kitchen were firm and flavorful, achieving a balance of fruitiness and crispiness. A special dill sauce is available and it is tasty, though the Fried Green Tomatoes are flavorful enough on their own. The exact recipe is hidden deep in the secret pages of the “Dixie Kitchen Recipe Bible.”

SIGNATURE DISH: BLACKENED CATFISH

Our Blackened Catfish dinner came with greens and mac and cheese. The catfish fillet was light, yet firm enough to support the seasoned, blackened crust. Dixie Kitchen sears a secret blend of “Louisiana creole” seasonings into the fish on an extra-hot grill, locking the rich spices into it without stealing the limelight from the flavors of the fillet itself.

Dixie Kitchen is located at 17940 Torrence Avenue in Lansing. Call 708-474-1378 or visit dixiekitchenandbait-shop.net for more information.

Full article and photos: “Dixie Kitchen brings creole comfort food to Lansing with Fried Green Tomatoes and Blackened Catfish”



Scan to read Dixie Kitchen article

GiGi Willikers Hoagies and Wings

GiGi Willikers Hoagies and Wings is new to the Lansing food scene, opening its doors in 2022 to serve hoagies, burgers, hot dogs, wings, and other classic offerings to hungry customers. Beyond the classics on the menu, however, owner Gia Davis has turned her namesake sandwiches into servings of healthy, fresh creativity: Hoagy Bowls.



GiGi Willikers’ Bawk Bawk Bowl. (Photo: Melanie Jongsma)

SIGNATURE DISH: BAWK BAWK BOWL

GiGi Willikers Hoagies and Wings earned a Local Flavor Award specifically for the Bawk Bawk Bowl, named after the seasoned grilled chicken that sits atop the other fresh ingredients in the bowl: lettuce, tomatoes, onions, pepperoncini, cucumbers, cheddar cheese, and a special house vinaigrette dressing. The chopped chicken breast pairs well with the dressing, giving a juicy, savory flavor to the fresh-tasting bowl. Arriving in a sturdy plastic container for both dine-in and to-go diners, the bowl travels well, and could easily be stretched to two meals, given its size.

GiGi Willikers is located at 2394 172nd Street in Lansing. Call 708-889-6720 or visit facebook.com/GiGiWillikers for more info.

Full article and photos: “Bawk Bawk Bowl at GiGi Willikers Hoagies and Wings transforms hoagy into healthy”



Scan to read GiGi Willikers article

Kdulche Café



The Lansing Crepe is a signature dessert that can be found only in Lansing — at Kdulche Café. (Photo: Melanie Jongsma)

Almost any of the menu items at Kdulche Café could qualify as a signature dish. Owners Eduardo Zepeda and Paola Ayala hail from Guadalajara, Mexico, and they have brought some familiar Mexican foods to Lansing, but each item is infused with its own unique flavor twist.

SIGNATURE DISH: CHILAQUILES VERDES

The Chilaquiles Verdes has all the ingredients of the traditional Mexican breakfast dish—corn tortillas, salsa, queso fresco, crema, pulled chicken—but the Kdulche Café version is somehow lighter and more flavorful. The dish can be spiced to order, so all palates will be able to enjoy it. The dish is always on the menu at Kdulche Café, but the specific flavor combinations vary according to produce that is in season.

SIGNATURE SWEET: THE LANSING CREPE

The Lansing Crepe is a thin, firm, dessert-style pancake that is just sweet enough. It is garnished with ice cream, whipped cream, condensada, and mixed fruit—strawberries, blueberries, peaches, and kiwi—which represent Lansing’s flavorful diversity, Zepeda said.

Kdulche Café is located at 3521 Ridge Road in Lansing. Call 708-889-6235 or visit facebook.com/Kdulche.

Full article and photos: “Kdulche Café’s Chilaquiles Verdes and Lansing Crepe create a taste tour that is unique yet familiar”



Scan to read full Kdulche article

Lynnne Ques Airport Bar & Grill



Lynnne Ques’ Pulled Pork Sandwich with baked beans and Popolano’s-style coleslaw. (Photo: Melanie Jongsma)

When Lynn Cartwright began her own catering and take-out business—Lynnne Ques BBQ—her pulled pork became locally famous. Six years ago she transformed that business into a dine-in restaurant when she landed the opportunity to take over the second-floor restaurant space overlooking the Lansing Municipal Airport.

SIGNATURE APPETIZER: BBQ MUSSELS

Cooked in a combination of olive oil, garlic, beer, and signature BBQ sauce, the appetizer is a perfect sharable option for barbecue and seafood aficionados alike. The mussels are meaty without tasting overly “fishy,” so they pair well with the sauce. The dish comes with a handful of small pieces of toasted bread, which dip perfectly in the garlic-BBQ sauce at the bottom of the plate.

SIGNATURE DISH: PULLED PORK SANDWICH

Lynnne Ques’ Pulled Pork Sandwich is made from portions of pork butt smoked with the bone in to add extra flavor. The pork is seasoned with a special mixture of salt, pepper, garlic powder, cayenne pepper, and onion powder before going into the smoker overnight. The smoked, seasoned pork is then shredded by hand, piled onto a soft, toasted bun, and topped with a pickle. Patrons can choose either of two sauces. Lynnne Ques’ signature BBQ sauce strikes a savory balance of subtle sweetness and tangy zip, while the mild option has a more bold sweetness.

Lynnne Ques is located at 3249 Glenwood Lansing Road in Lansing. For more information, call 708-474-7837.

Full article and photos: “Lynnne Ques’ pulled pork and BBQ mussels fly high”



Scan to read the Lynnne Ques article

Pour On Roy



Ashton White and Lawrence Charles Red are the house wines at Pour On Roy. (Photo: Melanie Jongsma)

If you’re looking for a wine bar where you can feel comfortable whether a connoisseur or just curious, Lansing’s family-owned Pour On Roy is worth a visit. The upscale wine bar opened in April of 2021 to provide an “elegant but not overpriced” space for people to gather. Their house wines are approachable, and their “small bites” are substantial. Both are an example of the unique local flavor this Lansing establishment offers.

SIGNATURE HOUSE WINES: ASHTON WHITE AND LAWRENCE CHARLES RED

Pour On Roy offers more than two dozen wines, some of which are seasonal, and many of which have already become customer favorites. “The house wines are a good place to start,” says Amy Todd, one of the five siblings who own the wine bar. Not only does the flavor of the house wines please a range of tastes, but the wines themselves emphasize the family in this family-owned business.

A variety of signature dishes, drinks, and desserts available only in Lansing

Look for the Local Flavor certificate proudly displayed at award-winning Lansing establishments



S.L. Wine Bar

Christopher Cain enjoys mixing drinks. Not only do cocktails provide him an opportunity to bring his creative spirit to spirits, but he loves the community interaction that happens over the counter at S.L. Wine Bar. Community and creativity are part of the “Good Vibes Only” (the bar’s tagline) atmosphere that Christopher and his wife Deja have brought to Lansing since August of 2021, when S.L. Wine Bar opened.

SIGNATURE COCKTAIL: THE RIDGE



The Ridge is a bourbon-based cocktail that is meant to be sipped. (Photo: Melanie Jongsma)

Christopher created a new cocktail specifically for Lansing: The Ridge. Named after Ridge Road—which is not only S.L.’s location but also the small-town heart of Lansing—The Ridge evokes warm feelings by its appearance as well as its taste. Christopher and Deja want the drink to convey the same welcome they have felt in Lansing and to emit the relaxed Mayberry-like vibe they feel Ridge Road represents. The Ridge is a bourbon-based drink with strawberry and lemon modifiers that Christopher says is “meant to be sipped.” Ingredients in our sampling of The Ridge included bourbon, strawberry, cranberry, cherry dust, simple syrup, and a dash of edible glitter, with a lemon and cherry garnish.

SIGNATURE DISH: BUFFALO CHICKEN PIZZA

S.L. Wine Bar serves the lighter, appetizer-type foods that are common at bars and pubs, but they have become known for their Buffalo Chicken Pizza. Christopher’s sauce recipe is topped by grilled chicken, mozzarella cheese, provolone cheese, and “a dust of parmesan.” Each pizza is made fresh upon order and is served on a stylish oven board. The pizza could be a full meal for one person or a hearty snack for two or more.

S.L. Wine Bar is located at 3224 Ridge Road in Lansing. More information is available by phone (708-251-5014), email (info@slwinebar.com), or website (www.slwinebar.com).

Scan the QR code to read the full article with photos: “S.L. Wine Bar mixes cocktails with community”



The Local Flavor Award is an ongoing program, and readers are invited to email The Lansing Journal with recommendations for other Lansing restaurants that deserve to be recognized. Email info@thelansingjournal.com. ■

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Honey Berry Café and Bulldog Ale House to replace Bakers Square and Jack’s Pub on Ridge Road

Two restaurants, one owner, similar timelines—April opening anticipated

BY JOSH BOOTSMA

LANSING, Ill. (March 5, 2023) – The former Bakers Square and Jack’s Sports Pub will soon be replaced by Honey Berry Café and Bulldog Ale House, respectively. Both locations are hoped to open as soon as April.

HONEY BERRY CAFÉ

Honey Berry Café will be located at 3545 Ridge Road, near the intersection of Ridge Road and Wentworth Avenue. The location has sat empty since Bakers Square’s abrupt shuttering in January of 2020.

Honey Berry Café is a breakfast/lunch restaurant with 10 locations around the country, including six in Illinois.

Dani Landau is a representative of WeEat Hospitality Group, which will manage Honey Berry Café. In an appearance before the Village Board on February 7, he described the restaurant’s food as “fancy breakfast.”

“Pancakes are a main signature of the menu,” he said, making special reference to the “Signature HoneyBerry” pancakes, which include berry mascarpone filling, fresh berries, vanilla creme anglaise, and blackberry coulis. Other items on the large menu include omelets, skillet, wraps, sandwiches, and craft cocktails.

Landau said the location will open at 7 a.m. daily, and will close at 2:30 p.m. on weekdays and 3 p.m. weekends.



Renderings of the future Honey Berry Café (far left) and Bulldog Ale House (left), scheduled to open in April. (Rendering by AGN design, provided by Wall Street Capital LLC)

BULLDOG ALE HOUSE

Bulldog Ale House will be the next iteration of Jack’s Sports Pub & Eatery, located at 3325 Ridge Road. Last year the owner of Jack’s sold the building to Wall Street Capital LLC—the same owner as Honey Berry Café—and WeEat Hospitality has taken over the management of the longtime Lansing establishment as it transitions to Bulldog Ale House.

Bulldog has nine current locations, all in the Chicago area. The restaurant, which prides itself on its “food & brews,” has a menu that includes basics like wings, burgers, tacos, and pizzas, as well as “signature” items that feature pasta, fish, and other entrées.

“Bulldog is a gastropub,” said David Wabick, a consultant with the Kreshmore Group that is working with both Bulldog and Honey Berry. “It’s very family-orientated; it’s not a party place where you stay til three in the morning. It’s got a lot of great food—I’ve been there a lot.”

Landau said Bulldog Ale House will have 40 beers on tap, including Bulldog house beers, local craft beers, and big-name beers. The Lansing location will also offer cocktails and wine.

Landau said all of the employees at Jack’s have been kept on, and are being trained to become familiar with the Bulldog menu and operations.

INVESTMENT PROTECTION

Both Bulldog Ale House and Honey Berry Café have appeared on recent Village Board agendas because they are requesting funds from the Village’s Ridge Road Tax Increment Financing District to aid in development costs. The

TIF redevelopment agreements, which were approved on February 21, include a Village share of approximately \$833,000 for Honey Berry, and \$573,000 for Bulldog, totaling just over \$1.4 million. The Village will recoup that through tax revenue generation at both of the businesses.

Trustee Saad Abbasy asked in the February 7 Committee of the Whole meeting how the Village would recoup its investment in Honey Berry Café if the business were to close.

Village Attorney Matt Welch explained the agreement contains provisions for such a situation, and the Village’s investment would be protected.

GAMING CONCERNS

At the February 21 Board Meeting, Trustee Jerry Zeldenrust—who was absent from the February 7 meeting—voiced concerns over the gaming portion of Honey Berry’s request. The restaurant intends to have a handful of video gaming machines in a separate area from the rest of the restaurant.

Zeldenrust, who has voted against gambling-related proposals in the past, said, “I feel very concerned about it, and convicted about not approving a restaurant that has a gaming aspect to it.”

Zeldenrust made a motion to table the proposal to discuss alternatives with the owners, a motion that was ultimately voted down. Instead, the trustees voted 5-1—with Zeldenrust dissenting—to approve the TIF redevelopment agreement for Honey Berry Café, with gaming included. The Trustees voted unanimously to approve a liquor license for Honey Berry, as well as a TIF redevelopment agreement for Bulldog Ale House—which also includes gaming.

Honey Berry Café will be located at 3545 Ridge Road, and Bulldog Ale House will be located at 3325 Ridge Road. ■

From Ukraine to Lansing:

Pictured from left: Ivan, Svitlana, Matvii, Aviia, and Ester Syrota. (Photo provided)



BY JOSH BOOTSMA

LANSING, Ill. (March 5, 2023) – Svitlana Syrota woke up early on a February morning last year in Poland to a text from one of her friends in Ukraine. The text shared this simple message: The war has started.

“I looked at the news and thought, ‘No, it’s not true,’” said Svitlana, who grew up and raised her children in Rivne, Ukraine, until 2018, when her family moved to neighboring Poland.

Russia’s invasion of Ukraine started on February 24, 2022, and has resulted in at least 200,000 combined casualties. Estimates out of Kyiv, Ukraine, have put the civilian death total at over 9,000, including 453 children.

MOVING AWAY FROM AN EMBATTLED HOME

Svitlana and her husband Ivan moved their family from western Ukraine to Gorzów Wielkopolski, Poland, in 2018. Svitlana said moving over 500 miles west allowed Ivan to be closer to the rest of Europe, where he often worked as a truck driver. It also distanced the family from Ukraine, where the Syrotas were concerned that Ivan would be recruited for the military.

After the initial shock of the Russian invasion, Svitlana spent time helping Ukrainian refugees: securing beds, offering food, and working with her church to help fami-

lies in need. “For the first two months, I helped Ukrainian people coming to my town,” Svitlana said. “I understood that it was my work to help people, my responsibility. Christ helped me, so I need to help other people.”

As the war escalated, compulsory military recruitments became more common. Ivan, who at age 39 was firmly in the age range for military service, decided

with his family to leave Poland. United for Ukraine sponsored the family in their journey to the United States.

LANDING IN LANSING

The Syrotas left Poland on November 10, 2022, with only five bags—one for each member of the family. Svitlana, Ivan, 11-year-old Matvii, 9-year-old Ester, and 7-year-old Aviia made the journey across the Atlantic along with the family terrier, Jackie.

A Ukrainian-run ministry called Love Cradle International aided the Syrotas as they arrived in America, and quickly connected the family with The Welcome Network, based in Hammond, Indiana.

The Welcome Network is a Christian organization that takes inspiration from the Bible verse Matt. 25:35, which says in part, “I was a stranger and you welcomed me.”

“We provide housing, immigration services, help with applying for healthcare benefits, work authorization cards, and help to find work, as well as connecting with local churches,” said Jared Alleman, Church Engagement and Volunteer Coordinator at The Welcome Network.

The Welcome Network arranged for the family to stay in their “Welcome Home,” a residence in Lansing that the organization opened in 2020. So the Syrotas’ first prolonged taste of America has been through the lens of Lansing.

Syrota family flees fighting to stay together

lies in need.

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“I like Lansing. I do feel welcome here,” Syrota said, adding that she appreciates the friendliness she’s experienced in the Lansing area in contrast to the increasingly sour interactions she’d had in war-weary Poland.

In Lansing, the Syrotas’ experience has been a welcoming one, and the family has already enjoyed biking on the rare warm winter days, maintaining their yard, playing soccer, and having Nerf gun fights in their home.

When watching movies, Ivan has insisted that the family watch English-only movies, to help develop their ongoing learning of the new language. To the same end, the family also plays alphabet and word games.

The Syrotas attend Living Word Church in Lansing, where they have been warmly received. There, they have received English instruction from volunteers, and Ivan has been financially supported in his goal to obtain a Commercial Driver’s License. The three children have also begun to adapt to school in Lansing.

“I personally, and our church, Living Word, have been so blessed by the Syrotas’ dependency on the Lord throughout their life-changing transition,” Alleman said, who also attends Living Word.

A LIFE LEFT BEHIND, A STORY STILL UNFOLDING

Thoughts about what her family left behind—in the form of possessions, friends, family, and a familiar lifestyle—bring tears to Svitlana’s eyes.

“Ukraine is always on my mind,” she said. “My brother’s wife lived in our town in Poland, and we have many friends there. ... And now there’s a new language. I knew Polish because I studied it as a child, but English for me is a very hard language.”

The distance from Ukraine doesn’t make the war there any less real for Svitlana. She wakes up every morning to check a map app on her phone that shows red in whichever oblasts (regions) attacks have occurred overnight.

“I check the app every time I have free time. Every time I see the map is red, I pray,” she said.

Svitlana is grateful to God that her family is safe, and still together.

“My hope is only God,” she said. “Because without God, we are nothing. ... I see how God provides for our situation, and how people have helped us, and I see God’s hand over our family and my life.”

Svitlana’s ask of the Lansing community is simple: “Pray for Ukraine, and that the war would stop.”

Those wishing to support families like the Syrotas can donate to The Welcome Network by visiting thewelcome.net.org or calling 219-276-3764. ■

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LANSING HISTORY

The Ford Hangar



and Henry Ford's lasting impact on Lansing

BY MARLENE COOK

PHOTO: JOSH BOOTSMA

NOTE: The online version of this article includes a few more details as well as historical photos. It has been edited to fit this space, but we encourage readers to look it up at thelansingjournal.com/category/lansing-history.

LANSING, Ill. (January 25, 2023) — Ford Motor Company founder Henry Ford commissioned three hangars in the early 1920s to serve his growing automobile business. The Ford Hangar in Lansing, Illinois, is the only one remaining. It proudly stands at Burnham Avenue and Glenwood-Lansing Road, behind the war memorial on the corner.

HENRY FORD'S PATH TO LANSING

Born in 1863, Henry Ford showed an early interest in mechanics. He built his first "car" in 1896, a four-wheeled bicycle run by a motor. He called it a "quadricycle." He launched his second vehicle, the Model T, in 1903 at his manufacturing plant in Highland Park, Michigan.

Ford added plants in Dearborn and Detroit, Michigan, and Cleveland, Ohio. His first Chicago-area plant opened in 1924 at 3915 South Wabash Avenue. He founded his Hegewisch plant in 1924, and it is the only continuously operating automobile plant.

In order to more efficiently ship parts from Michigan to his Chicago-area operations, Ford began looking for land on which to build an airport. In 1926, he discovered a parcel available through an estate sale in Lansing.

WHY LANSING?

Ford reasoned the site was located far enough inland to skirt Lake Michigan's fog belt and would provide a direct motor route on Torrence Avenue to his Hegewisch manufacturing plant. And the plot was large enough to house a factory.

Ford's dream was to build an airport that would make it easier and faster to get parts from his manufacturing plants in Michigan and Ohio to his Chicago factories. He also planned to produce the innovative Ford Trimotor (also Tri-Motor; nicknamed the "Tin Goose") airplanes in Lansing and showcase them in a state-of-the-art hangar.

He hired Albert Kahn, industrial architect, to build the hangar. Kahn was an accredited designer of industrial plant complexes, Detroit skyscrapers, and office buildings as well as mansions in the city suburbs. Construction on Henry Ford's hangar began June 1, 1926, and was completed in January of 1927. Ford commissioned weekly photographs of the project's progress.

KAHN'S INNOVATIONS

Kahn's goal was to solve all the problems found in earlier hangars that were made of wood and resembled barns. To improve lighting, for example, Kahn designed five large 15x18-foot windows. The large windows, along with the sliding doors on each end of the building, provided natural light to 40% of the total floor area.

Kahn also made it possible for the giant hangar doors to be operated by a single person. On both the north and south ends of the building he designed a series of 19-foot high doors on wheels guided by steel tracks. The wheels made it possible for one person to move the doors, and the tracks ensured that the doors aligned consistently.

In addition, Kahn's cantilevered construction technique allowed the interior of the building to be wide open without columns to support the 13,000-square-foot structure. This gave Ford's trimotor planes plenty of room to arrive and maneuver and leave again.

Ford's plans to build trimotor airplanes in Lansing did not materialize, but he did build 199 of them at his Michigan plant. For decades those trimotors flew in and out of Lansing carrying automobile parts, mail, and passengers. The Ford Hangar supported about 70 planes and became a center of chartered freight, passenger service, and flying instruction.

Lansing's Ford Hangar was also the first hangar in the country to have a waiting room, a feature that is standard throughout the aviation industry now. The world's first airport waiting room was located on the west side of the building, along with an office and a boiler room. It was heated with a forced air system that was fired up with half a carload of coal per day.

W.P. MacCracken Jr., Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Aeronautics, inspected the new hangar and said, "There is nothing flimsy about the construction. It's made up of steel, brick, and mortar and in full accordance with the latest designs." The Ford Hangar in Lansing became the standard by which all hangars were built.

FORD HANGAR BRINGS THE FAMOUS TO LANSING

Convenience to Chicago was a major draw of the Ford Airport and Hangar in Lansing and therefore attracted some famous flyers. The hangar—with its waiting room—became the perfect gathering place to welcome these celebrities.

Charles Lindbergh routinely flew into the Ford Airport. He was a contract U.S. Mail pilot in 1926, and his route was between St. Louis and Chicago. In 1927 Lindbergh attempted to be the first person to fly nonstop between New York and Paris, and four of his close aviator friends sat in the Ford Hangar awaiting word on his progress. The four—Bill Bliss (manager of the airport), Roy E. Keeler, N.C. Browne, and E.A. Abramson—were all Ford pilots, and they recalled Lindbergh's many visits. Bliss said, "He has had the New York to Paris 'bug' in his head for months. ...Now he's on his way. We know the kid and know that he'll make it if it's possible."

Another remarked, "Sure he'll get there. He's got a good motor, a good plane, and there isn't a better pilot ridin' the clouds."

Amelia Earhart was scheduled to fly into Lansing on June 24, 1932, from New York. A triumphant reception was planned, and hundreds of cars caused extreme traffic jams when spectators swarmed to attend the special event. However, Earhart only circled the field in her plane and continued to Chicago without landing. When she was sighted, 56 army planes took off from Lansing amid thunderous roars and clouds of dust. They got into formation and circled the field twice before heading southwest to pass over Hammond. The excitement stopped traffic and people filled the streets waving their arms and shouting a welcome.

Wiley Post and Harold Gatty landed the "Winnie Mae" at the Ford Airport on July 25, 1931, accompanied by an escort of regular army planes on their nationwide tour after completing their much publicized "Flight Around the World," June 23–July 1. They also were featured fliers in the second annual air races held at Lansing in 1934.

Then there were the three Hollywood stars who flew out of Ford Airport on October 28, 1927, to return to Hollywood after visiting New York and Chicago. **Wallace Berry, Mary Pickford, and Douglas Fairbanks** decided to fly back by way of Detroit. They waited in the Ford Hangar for the large passenger plane from Detroit, sent to the Ford Airport by the Ford Motor Company.

Many other early flyers landed at the Ford Airport, including **Jimmy Doolittle**, who topped Air and Space/Smithsonian magazine's list of the greatest pilots of all time and ranked sixth on the list of 51 Heroes of Aviation. Legend has it when he flew into Lansing on one of his trips, he saw both the north and south hangar doors wide open and flew right through the hangar in a daredevil stunt—in one door and out the other.

CELEBRATING HISTORY

To celebrate the Ford Hangar's 80th birthday in 2006, Patty Eidam—who at that time was president of the Lansing Historical Society and a Lansing Village Trustee—initiated a public art project, "Tri-Motors In Plane View." Lansing businesses, churches, and schools could sponsor a display plane 1/8th the size of an original Henry Ford Tri-Motor. The sponsoring organizations had artwork for their planes professionally designed and painted, each choosing a theme to correspond with their mission. Fifty-three organizations sponsored planes that year, and they were displayed publicly for three months. Some can still be seen around Lansing, continuing to remind residents and visitors of our historic connection with Henry Ford. Photos of several of these planes are included in the online version of this article.

Eidam again paid tribute to the Ford Hangar by including it in the design of a new Village Seal when she was elected Lansing's Mayor in 2017. In addition, the Ford Hangar's role in Lansing history was commemorated in the artistic panels around the History Plaza at the corner of Burnham Avenue and Ridge Road, a project commissioned by the previous mayor, Norm Abbott.

ADAPTING THE FORD HANGAR

Records show that the Ford Hangar was still used for aviation purposes through 2011. It was vacated in early 2012 to allow further restoration of the building. In August 2012, the Village formed a foundation to help stabilize and preserve the Ford Hangar. There is no record of the foundation's demise, however it is not mentioned again after the initial introduction.

Since 2017 the Village has been working through agreements with different agencies that would provide some freedom from the various restrictions that limit the hangar's use. As the Village brings the Ford Hangar into compliance with modern standards, it must do so in a way that does not harm the historical aspects. Entering into a Historic Preservation Covenant with the Federal Aviation Administration will allow the Village to have more control over restoration as well as usage.

Today, the Ford Hangar has been used for community functions and aircraft displays. It was a regular meeting spot for the Illinois Chapter of the Pilots Association. It has been the venue for Fetching Market, a wedding, and a Celebration of Life. Michael Jordan filmed two commercials in the Ford Hangar, and comedian Tom Dreesen filmed a TV pilot there with actress Yumeun Pardo.

Henry Ford probably did not envision the variety of uses his innovative Kahn-designed building would see throughout its history, but his spirit of entrepreneurship lives on within the historic walls of the Ford Hangar in Lansing, Illinois. ■

Library hires graphic artist, launches new logo and marketing initiatives

J.J. Armstrong works with people and images to “bring vision to life”

BY CARRIE STEINWEG

LANSING, Ill. (March 5, 2023) – The Lansing Public Library has a new logo—and the design is the creative work of a new employee.

J.J. Armstrong has been working at the library for just eight months, but has made quite an impact in that time. In her position as Marketing Associate, she is “responsible for promoting the library in the best way possible, though branding, social media, publications, and other avenues,” she said.

FROM SCIENCE, TO ART, TO LANSING

The Country Club Hills native, who now resides in Park Forest, initially attended college as a science major, but a love of art caused her to change course.

“I did a curriculum change, and I started to follow my passion and attended the Art Institute of Chicago, where I graduated summa cum laude and received my BFA in Graphic Design,” she said.

She has now been working professionally in graphic design for over 15 years. In addition to her role at the library, she also runs her own graphic design business called Strong On Design.

Armstrong has also been responsible for much of the rebranding, including the Library@Nite Concert Series, Library@Home Homebound Delivery Service, Lansing Seed Library, Friends of the Lansing Public Library, and Library of Things.

“She brings a creativity and energy that is contagious to those that she works with,” said Lisa Korajczyk, Director of the Lansing Library. “She is able to put people’s ideas and words together in a very unique visual style.”

CREATING THE LIBRARY’S LOGO

The Library’s new logo uses white space to communicate the image of a tree.

“As a graphic designer, my role is to bring visions to life. The creation of Lansing Public Library’s new logo came from the input of every staff member. I learned about what the library meant to each individual as well as

what everyone wanted the library to represent to our patrons and to the community of Lansing,” she said.

“Words like safe, cheerful, friendly, warm, clean, inclusive, environmental, optimistic, and bright helped to build our logo,” she said.

Those words impacted the color choices for the logo: green, yellow, and orange, Armstrong explained, adding that the use of white space is very intentional in the logo.

“Some people may think the logo has a tree because the library houses a tree. Ultimately there is no tree, though the white space and the color spacing creates an illusion of one. The color spacing also indicates movement. It is the expansion of where we started to how far we’ll go. This is why the ‘tree’ is not centered, because the library is continuously moving and evolving,” she said.

COMMUNITY CREATIVITY

The daily opportunities for creativity are what Armstrong likes most about her new job.

“I like that I have an opportunity to present our programs, principles, and services to the Lansing community in a creative way,” she said.

“[J.J. Armstrong] is helping us craft our message to our community about who and what the library is, and what we have to offer,” Korajczyk.

Armstrong and her husband Jerrod have a daughter Kiera and two family pets — an orange tabby named Sir Miles Superfly and a yellow lab, Sir Alexander Sirius.

“I want to encourage the Lansing community to visit



their local library and check out the awesome programs and services we provide. The director and staff here are phenomenal—they truly are creating an atmosphere that promotes positive patron experiences,” she said.

The Lansing Public Library is located at 2750 Indiana Avenue. ■

Library hosts Southside Soul Kings

BY RICHARD SCANLAND

LANSING, Ill. (February 25, 2023) – On Friday, February 24, the Lansing Library held a special music event for Black History Month, featuring jazz and blues songs from Black artists throughout the 20th century. The event provided a mix of artists and eras, which gave a sampling of African-American music history.

Food was provided by local restaurant Dixie Kitchen and was free to attendees. Food included barbecue fried chicken, macaroni and cheese, and beans and rice.

The musical performers were the Southside Soul Kings, who used bass, guitar, saxophone, and harmonica to add a healthy blend of sounds to their set. The crowd was made up of people of all ages, including families with young children who were able to dance in front of the stage and have as much fun as the adults.

The band played for about an hour and a half, often inviting the audience to sing along with them during some of the more well known songs. They closed with Purple Rain and the crowd joined in singing every word.

ENJOYING LIBRARY EVENTS

One attendee said he loved jazz music and attended the library’s event because of the consistently high quality acts hosted by the library. He has attended many of them in the past, and plans on continuing to attend in the future.

The Community Outreach Coordinator at the Lansing Library, Andrew Harootunian, said he is passionate about events like this, saying they are a perfect opportunity for the community to come together.

Harootunian said, “The Library wants to be a community hub, so it’s important that we put on events that everyone can enjoy.”

Friday’s event was his favorite that the library has done so far, rivaled only by a Hispanic Heritage event that the library held late last year.

Harootunian also said he’s excited for a similar event in April, a jazz club night that could include wine tasting.

Those who missed Friday’s event can view the Southside Soul Kings on the Library’s Facebook page. Upcoming events can be found on the Lansing Library’s website: lansingpl.org/calendar.

The Lansing Public Library is located at 2750 Indiana Avenue. ■



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Journal journeys

A feature that works best with a print issue

LANSING, Ill. (March 2023) - 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 photo at right, submitted by Barbara Shegog, serves as a reminder that a Journal Journey doesn’t have to be far. It was taken at her studio on Ridge Road in downtown Lansing.

Now that you’ve received a fresh new print edition of The Lansing Journal, we’d like to see more Journal Journeys submissions! Take the newspaper with you to work, to school, to the grocery store, on vacation, on your morning walk. Take a photo by yourself, with your family, with your pets, with your neighbors. The only requirement for a Journal Journeys photo is that it 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
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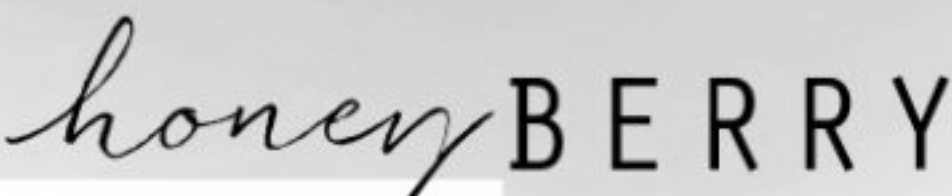
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From left: Dance Instructor Novella Tomlin, Owner Barbara Shegog, and class members Laverne Graves and Rosland Madden take a break from line dancing to pose with the Summer 2022 edition of The Lansing Journal. (Photo: Karen Abbott-Trimuel)




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America Sings! to bring hundreds of youth to Fox Pointe and Good Neighbor Day Parade

BY JOSH BOOTSMA

LANSING, Ill. (March 5, 2023) – The first weekend in May will be melodious in Lansing, as hundreds of students come to sing and dance as part of the America Sings! festival hosted at Fox Pointe, and as part of the Lansing Good Neighbor Day Parade.

America Sings! is a nonprofit organization created by John Jacobson and his friends and family in 1988. The organization hosts festivals that allow school choirs to showcase their work in a non-competitive setting, serve the local community, and participate in choreographed group songs.

MORE CELEBRATION THAN COMPETITION

Choir and dance competitions abound, but Jacobson wanted to create something different.

"I always tell kids, figure out what you like to do the most, and figure out how you can do that to help other people," Jacobson said.

"What I do—and have done for my whole career—has been a choreographer and a stage director. I've spent a lot of years working with Walt Disney Productions and other organizations like that staging shows," Jacobson said.

"The idea was, I need to practice what I preach here and still do my job—which is choreographing and staging shows—but use some of that energy towards the philanthropic side of my life."

That philanthropic conviction led to America Sings!, a nonprofit organization that hosted its first event in Washington D.C. in 1988, and has traveled the country organizing youth-focused festivals in the decades since.

AMERICA SINGS! COMES TO LANSING

Last year saw America Sings' first in-person festival return after the COVID-19 pandemic. That festival took place in Washington D.C., and the next one, scheduled for May 5 and 6, will take place in Lansing.

Jacobson said America Sings! was eyeing locations in the midwest for 2023 when the Chicago Southland Convention and Visitors Bureau (CSCVB) contacted them.

"When they contacted us when we were looking for a place, it really fit well," Jacobson said. "And then when they talked about the community parade that happens every year, I thought, 'Well this would be great, it'll give it a real fresh and new flavor. A flavor that is unique to Lansing and the Fox Pointe area. I think it's going to be a really wonderful event because it will be like none other.'"

The south suburbs hosted America Sings! 30 years ago

when the organization came to Park Forest in 1993.

Andy Ritter, Director of Public Relations at CSCVB, said, "In our ongoing efforts to bring visitors, events, and meetings to the region, and knowing the Village of Lansing had recently opened Fox Pointe, our VP of Sales Mary Patchin reached back out to America Sings! They viewed our Thresholds 360 video on Fox Pointe and booked the event."

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Friday, May 5: The hundreds of students signed up for the festival range in ages from elementary school to high school. These students—part of choirs in schools around the country—will arrive on Friday in Lansing to rehearse the group songs and choreography they've received in advance from America Sings!.

The rehearsal will be historic in its own right, as it will take place in the Ford Hangar. Though records of such things don't exist, Friday, May 5, might mark the most voices ever raised in song inside the 96-year-old building.

Saturday, May 6: On Saturday, choirs are scheduled throughout the day to give 15–20 minute performances on the Fox Pointe stage, and aid in a local service project to benefit local organizations.

The first choir to take the Fox Pointe stage will do so around 10 a.m. on May 6. Other choirs will perform throughout the day—with a parade break at 2 p.m.

Around 4 p.m. all the students from all the participating schools will gather for the grand finale, a mass choir performance of a few musical numbers written and choreographed by America Sings!.

"The best way the community can participate is to come and cheer on the young people that are doing the singing, dancing, and service projects," Jacobson said. "It will be a really enjoyable day for everyone who does come. ... Be there for sure for the grand finale that we do at the end of the day. I think most people will go away quite inspired but the great image of youth in America doing great things."

Lansing's Director of Venue Operations Ken Reynolds said the Village believes using Fox Pointe in this new way will highlight its versatility.

"America Sings! will benefit Fox Pointe and Lansing by introducing new guests to the venue and showcasing the versatility of Fox Pointe to be a location where groups and organizations can hold community and civic events," he said.

GOOD NEIGHBOR DAY PARADE – AMERICA SINGS!

The theme of the 55th annual Good Neighbor Day Parade is the same as the name of festival: America Sings! Reynolds said, "[The Village] met with the Lansing Area Chamber of Commerce to suggest that "America Sings" be the theme of the 2023 Good Neighbor Day Parade, with all participants in the America Sings! event also being involved in the parade. The Chamber liked the idea and adopted the theme for this year's parade."

The Lansing Area Chamber of Commerce organizes the annual parade in Lansing, which has been a Lansing tradition for 55 years.

"We wanted to partner with the Village for this theme because we are thrilled about America Sings coming to Lansing," said Ernst Lamothe, Vice President of the Chamber. "Whenever the chamber chooses a theme, our goal is to pick something that everyone in the community can rally around. We believe the community will flock to the America Sings! weekend and our parade."

Jacobson said the America Sings! participants will perform choreographed songs as they parade through Lansing.

PARADE DETAILS

Participants in this year's parade are encouraged to dress in music-related clothes, and dance, sing, or otherwise perform as they walk through Lansing.

The parade steps off at 2 p.m. following the same route as last year—starting at Wentworth Avenue, heading west on Ridge Road, turning south on Burnham Avenue, and ending at TF South.

The deadline to register for the parade is April 28. A registration form is available online at the Chamber's website: chamberoflansing.com. ■

Ken Reynolds wins Distinguished Service Award



Above: Ken Reynolds accepted the Mike Herbert Distinguished Service Award from the Illinois High School Baseball Coaches Association. Below: Ken Reynolds was joined by his wife Sally, son Louis, and daughter Cori when his TF South baseball jersey was retired last spring. (Photos provided)



BY MIKE CLARK

LANSING, Ill. (March 3, 2023) – It's been an emotional year or so for Ken Reynolds.

"I had a personally difficult 2022, losing my mom and mother-in-law," the longtime Lansing resident said.

But Reynolds has had some career highlights as well. Last spring, the former baseball player, assistant coach, and head coach at TF South had his jersey retired at a ceremony attended by former Rebels star and MLB outfielder Curtis Granderson among others.

Then in January, Reynolds accepted the Mike Herbert Distinguished Service Award at the Illinois High School Baseball Coaches Association (IHSBCA) annual banquet.

"That was really nice on the heels of the jersey retirement," Reynolds said. "It was a nice 1-2 punch, in a good way."

FOUR DECADES OF BASEBALL

The award puts a bow on Reynolds' service to the TF South program in particular and high school baseball in general over nearly four decades.

He set the program single-season record by hitting .441 as a senior in 1984 and started his coaching career six years later at Marian Catholic. After two seasons with the Spartans, he returned home to Lansing as an assistant to his high school coach, IHSBCA Hall of Famer Bill Anderson.

"He became a second father to me after losing mine very young," said Reynolds, who took over as head coach in 2002 after Anderson retired. "Being able to succeed him was something I wanted to do from 17, 18 years old."

Anderson won 60% of his games over 34 seasons, taking South to the 1990 Class AA state tournament, and had the Red Wolves' field named in his honor.

"I joked that I just wanted a sprinkler head named after me someday," Reynolds said.

But he did leave his mark in a seven-year run as head coach, helping to organize a \$100,000 facility upgrade in 2007. He also served as vice president and president of the South Suburban Baseball Coaches Association.

Reynolds later spent two seasons as an assistant at Richards before returning to TF South for two more years on head coach Matt Tiffy's staff in 2016–17.

It was a meaningful and memorable time for Reynolds, who coached his son Louis years after riding around the infield on a tractor with the latter on his lap. Daughter Cori, who followed her dad into coaching as a softball assistant at Joliet West, also grew up on the South baseball field.

FAMILY TIES

During his IHSBCA banquet speech, Reynolds highlighted his wife Sally and his children for their support during his coaching career. And he also reflected on family ties during his final stint at TF

South, which included the baseball team's first out-of-state spring trip to Arizona in 2016.

That was a homecoming for Reynolds, who lived in the Phoenix area until his father's death when he was 9 years old. Reynolds placed flowers on his father's grave on that trip. He also reflected on their shared love for the Chicago Cubs, who broke sports' most famous drought by winning their first World Series since 1908 later that year.

"Talk about putting a bow on it," Reynolds said. "That was a full circle for me."

"NOT CLOSING THE DOOR"

As for coaching again? Never say never. "If I do go back, it would be in the high school or college ranks, if someone would have me," said Reynolds, who now serves as Lansing's director of venue operations. "I'm not closing the door on it."

But if he is done coaching, those two awards were a great cap on his career. ■

Diana Ross, Kevin Hart coming to Hard Rock Live

BY JOSH BOOTSMA

GARY, Ind. (March 4, 2023) – Singer Diana Ross and comedian Kevin Hart are among the many acts that will appear at Hard Rock Live in the coming months.

Hard Rock Casino Northern Indiana is located at 5400 W 29th Avenue in Gary, Indiana, and will celebrate its two-year anniversary in May. One of the location's premier offerings is the Hard Rock Live venue, which has drawn a wide variety of acts since its opening, including the Gary-grown Jackson family.

DIANA ROSS, MAY 5 AT 7 P.M.

On May 5, legendary singer Diana Ross will take to stage at Hard Rock Live. Starting with Motown Records in the 60s as part of the Supremes, Ross went on to experience decades of success in music, fashion, stage, film, and television. In 2021, she released a new Grammy-nominated album titled Thank You. In 2022, she headlined the biggest music festival in the world, Glastonbury.

KEVIN HART, JUNE 10 AT 7 P.M.

Kevin Hart's popular "Reality Check" tour will make its stop at Hard Rock Northern Indiana on June 10. Emmy- and Grammy-nominated Hart started his career in his hometown of Philadelphia, and is now a comedian, actor, entrepreneur, and author. The actor has opened 11 films at number one at the box office. Tickets for Diana Ross and Kevin Hart are available at ticketmaster.com. ■

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Featuring Mariachi Acero de Las Vegas

Be transported to Mexico with this exciting and festive concert featuring award winning Mariachi Acero de Las Vegas, led by East Chicago's own Erik Ramirez, with the symphony for an unforgettable night of classic Mariachi music. The Symphony will also perform a variety of Latin orchestral standards.

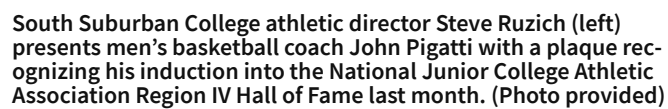
MOVIE MAGIC

Thursday, June 8, 7:30pm
Friday, June 9, 7:30pm
Featuring Esme Arias Kim, violin

Take a musical journey through the magic of the movies! Featuring music from movies like *Avengers: Endgame*, *James Bond*, *Who Framed Roger Rabbit*, *Star Wars*, *Maltese Falcon*, and **MANY MORE!** Award winning, 16-year-old violinist Esme Arias-Kim, performs Korngold's "Hollywood Concerto."

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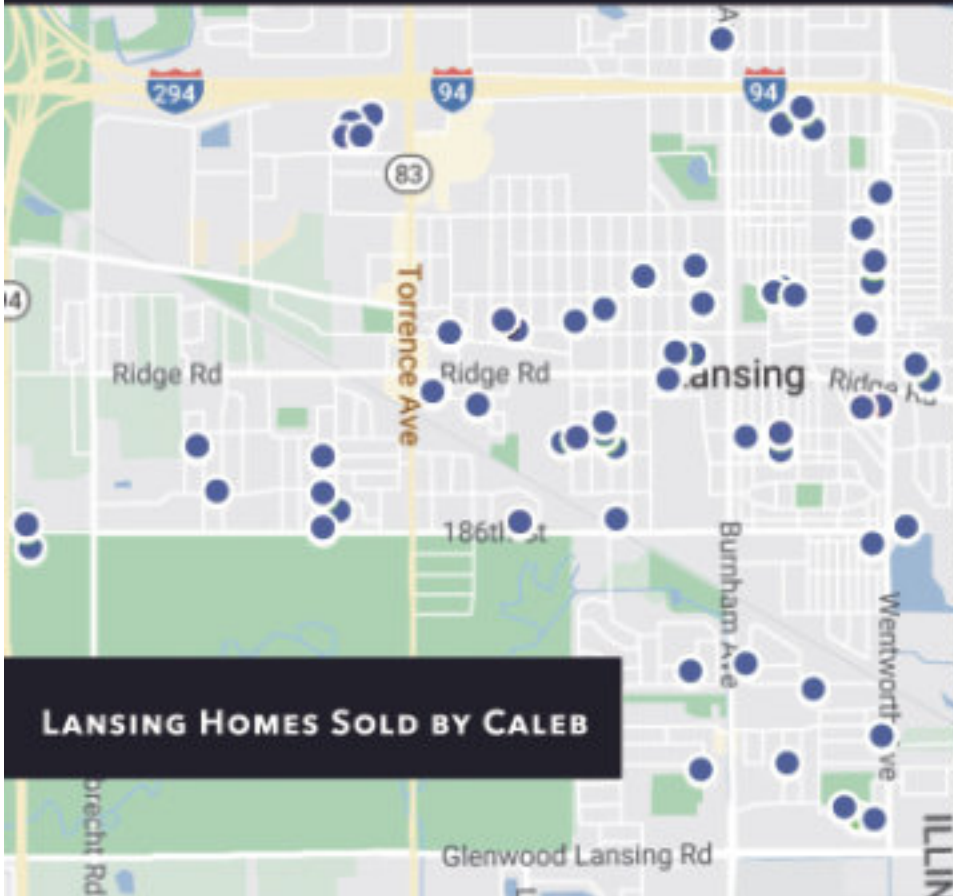
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