

FOCUS

THE MONTHLY NEWS MAGAZINE OF THE LANSING REGIONAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE • SEPTEMBER 2020

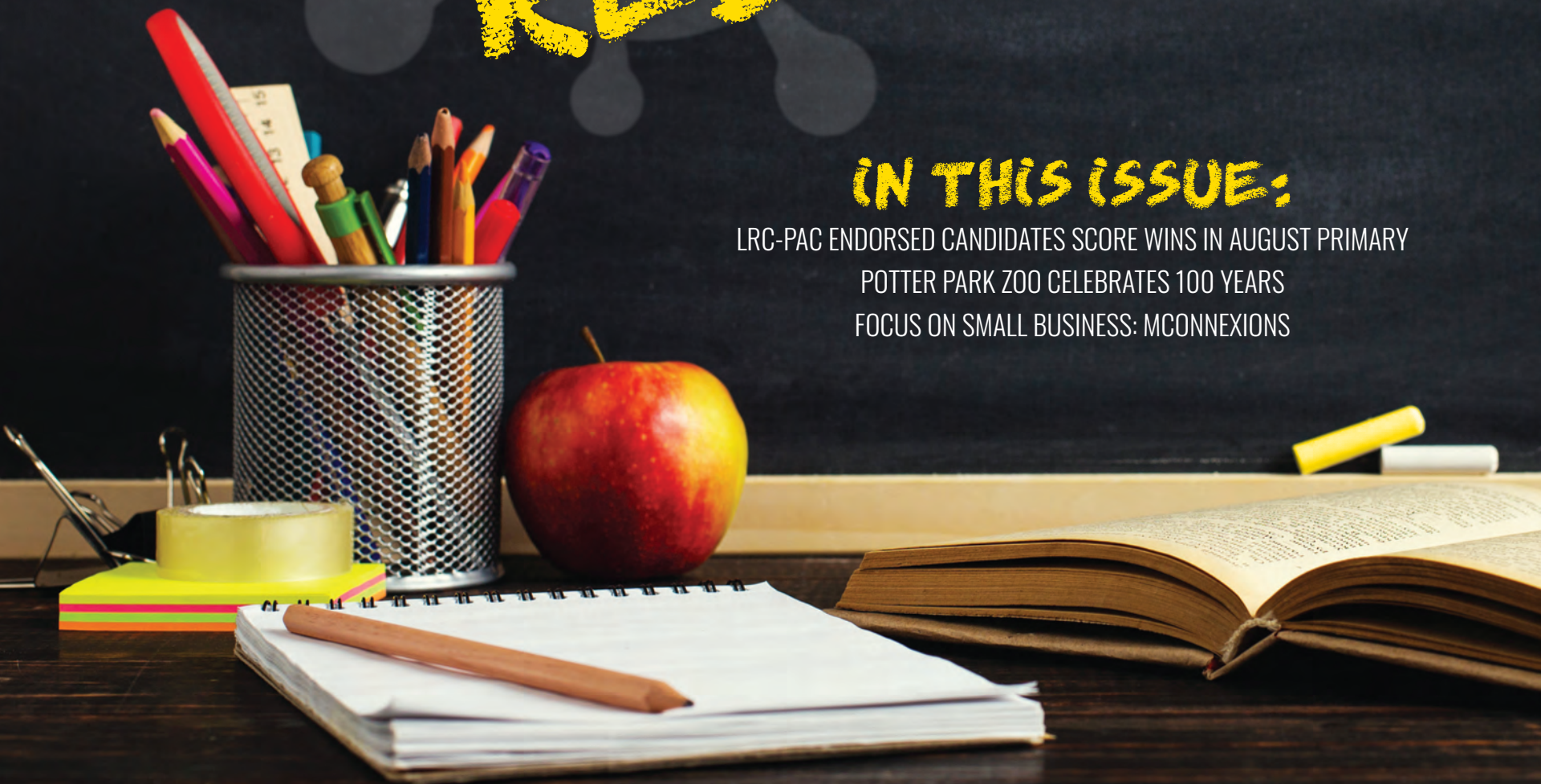
EDUCATION GETS A COVID-19 REBOOT

IN THIS ISSUE:

LRC-PAC ENDORSED CANDIDATES SCORE WINS IN AUGUST PRIMARY

POTTER PARK ZOO CELEBRATES 100 YEARS

FOCUS ON SMALL BUSINESS: MCONNECTIONS





TIM DAMAN
President and CEO
Lansing Regional
Chamber of Commerce



Education and the Relaunch of our Local Economy

ONE OF THE OVERARCHING INSIGHTS THAT HAS BECOME MORE EVIDENT than ever due to the COVID-19 pandemic has been how connected we have become in our society. Nowhere does this become more apparent than in education. Closing and reopening schools touches all our lives, whether we have children in K-12, higher education, or work in the education arena.

The issue of reopening our schools is also an important economic and workforce development issue. As we continue to reopen our economy, parents in the workforce will continue to grapple with balancing working, whether from an office or home, with the need to keep being engaged in their children's learning in many cases from an online platform.

Early on in the COVID-19 pandemic, the Chamber assembled a group of community and business leaders to provide leadership in helping to reopen our regional economy safely. Those involved in the early stages of RELAUNCH Greater Lansing Task Force immediately recognized the importance of having leading educators in both K-12 and higher education represented on the task force.

The Lansing Regional Chamber is proud to have played a leadership role during COVID-19, not only in the RELAUNCH Greater Lansing task force but actively communicating the latest information about COVID-19, something we found changed daily. We continue to provide strong leadership, particularly as it relates to education. The most recent Lansing Economic Club featured four of our area K-12 superintendents. They discussed their district's decision making-process in how to best deliver student learning this fall and the issues they have faced in adjusting and adapting to the COVID-19 reality.

Though school districts have different approaches to reopening, two things have been consistent, for which we should all be grateful. First, every decision has been driven by data and guidance from health experts and the health and safety of children and staff as the highest priority. Second, every district involved a diverse group of stakeholders in an extensive, transparent analysis and thoughtful development of their reopening plans.

"It has also become abundantly clear as this process has played out that it is of critical importance that we get back to in-person classroom learning across the board as soon as it is safely possible to do so. Classroom learning is essential to the advancement of our children and for the successful reopening of our economy. We also know that students are educated and supported by the dedicated staff they know and trust and care about them, especially in these challenging times."

It has also become abundantly clear as this process has played out that it is of critical importance that we get back to in-person classroom learning across the board as soon as it is safely possible to do so. Classroom learning is essential to the advancement of our children and for the successful reopening of our economy. We also know that students are educated and supported by the dedicated staff they know and trust and care about them, especially in these challenging times.

The best news is that our education system in Greater Lansing is among the best and will continue to be. Our K-12 schools provide an excellent foundation for preparing students for higher education or careers in professional skills areas. In higher education, Michigan State University, under the excellent leadership of Dr. Samuel L. Stanley, excels as a global leader in many areas. Lansing Community College under the leadership of its new president, Steve Robinson will continue to be a leader in workforce and economic development work in our region as will learning institutions including Davenport and Central Michigan University, among others.

Through good times and challenging times, we should all find encouragement in knowing that education in Greater Lansing is world-class. It provides a path to a more prosperous future for our region. All of us, especially our children are in good hands! ■



JOIN THE LEADERSHIP CIRCLE

Leadership Circle members are proven business and community leaders. We value their commitment and applaud their efforts to strengthen our region with their leadership and appreciate the important role they play in advancing our organization.

2020 Board of Directors

Officers

Board Chair

Wendy Hamilton / TechSmith

Past Chair

Patrick Dean / Dean Transportation

Chair Elect

Mike Zamara / Niowave

Legal Counsel

Patricia Scott / Foster, Swift, Collins & Smith, P.C.

Treasurer

Andy Rose / Rehmann

President

Tim Daman / Lansing Regional Chamber of Commerce

Division Directors

Marketing and Communications

Lisa O'Connor / Publiccom

Government Relations

Matt Resch / Resch Strategies

Member Services

Michelle Massey / Dewpoint

Regional Initiatives

Kirk Ray / McLaren Greater Lansing

At-Large

Tina Brumley / Auto-Owners Insurance

April Clobes / MSU Federal Credit Union

Jim Farrell / Dart Container

Roger Graff / Farm Bureau Insurance Co.

Glenn Granger / Granger Construction

Keith Granger / Granger Waste Services

David Lewis / AT&T Michigan

Darci Marcum / General Motors

Van Martin / Martin Commercial Properties

Jeff Metts / Dowding Industries

Ken Misiewicz / Pleune Service Company

Steve Quinlan / Neogen

Joe Ruth / Sparrow

Lisa Ellen Smith / Inverve Marketing

Todd Surline / Hiring Solutions

Dr. Kathleen Wilbur / Michigan State University

Kevin Zielke / AF Group

David Zylke / Jackson National Life Insurance

Board Partnerships

LEAP, Inc.

Bob Trezise / LEAP, Inc.

Grand River Connection

Steve Hershfield / CBRE

ATHENA WIN

Jenn Sturdy / PNC Bank

Black Business Alliance of Greater Lansing

Dr. Alane Laws-Barker / Sparrow

FOCUS

Editor

Ashley Sandborn

Feature Writer

Ross Woodstock

Design

Tandem Studios

Cover Design

Tandem Studios

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

The Lansing Regional Chamber of Commerce (LRCC) is a trusted convener of professionals, influencers, and leaders in the Lansing region.

During a time of mandated social distancing, the LRCC has hosted numerous virtual events, from Member Mixers to Economic Club programs, that have provided valuable content and information and given members an opportunity to network. The LRCC also continues to host virtual weekly roundtables for business, community, and government leaders to connect and share what is going on in their community.

The LRCC encourages members to check their email, follow LRCC social media channels, and visit the LRCC website for the most updated information on additional educational offerings and networking opportunities as we move forward.

Registration for all events is available on the LRCC website.



LANSING ECONOMIC CLUB

Date: Thursday, Sept. 10 from 11 a.m. to noon

Topic: Changing Landscape of Local Government in Mid-Michigan

Description: Hear from statewide municipal leaders on how local governments are battling and responding to COVID-19.

Panelists: Summer Minnick, deputy executive director & CMO, Michigan Municipal League; Stephan Currie, executive director, Michigan Association of Counties; Neil Sheridan, executive director, Michigan Townships Association; Dr. Eric Scorsone, associate professor and director, Center for Local Government Finance and Policy, Michigan State University

Moderator: Emily Lawler, MLIVE Media Group

SEPTEMBER MEMBER MIXER

Date: Sept. 22 from 4 – 6 p.m.

Description: Join us for one of our first IN-PERSON events since the closures in March! We are so excited to partner with Cleats Bar & Grille at Hope Sports Complex and welcome masked members to socialize safely. Julie Mullins and the team at Cleats have dialed in the COVID-19 event experience and will provide a safe and fun environment to reconnect with your Chamber friends!

Location: Cleats Bar & Grille at Hope Sports Complex, 5801 Aurelius Rd., Lansing

Safety Standards: Event will be hosted on the patio with less than 10 individuals allowed inside Cleats. Masks and social distancing will be enforced. Masks and hand sanitizer will be provided. Food and drinks will be served by Cleats staff who will be masked and gloved.

TEN OVER THE NEXT 10 AWARDS

Date: Tuesday, Sept. 22 from 6 to 7 p.m.

Description: Sponsored by Independent Bank and the University Club of MSU as well as a joint venture with Grand River Connection, this award ceremony celebrates Greater Lansing's top young professionals who are anticipated to contribute to the community significantly over the next 10 years. The winners are judged based on professional achievement, community involvement and personal success.

LANSING ECONOMIC CLUB

Date: Thursday, Sept. 24 from 11 a.m. to noon

Description: Hear from University Research Corridor presidents on each of the three universities' new economic impact study, and the universities' responses and research to COVID-19.

Topic: University Research Corridor Presidents Panel

Panelists: Dr. Samuel L. Stanley, president, Michigan State University; Dr. Mark Schlissel, president, University of Michigan; Dr. M. Roy Wilson, president, Wayne State University

Moderator: Patti Poppe, president and CEO, Consumers Energy

VIRTUAL BUSINESS ROUNDTABLES

Virtual roundtables allow community and government leaders an opportunity to share what is going on in the community and determine ways to advice the tri-county region.

Delta Township - Eaton County: Sept. 2 from 9 to 10 a.m.

Lansing: Sept. 9 from 9 to 10 a.m.

East Lansing - Meridian Township: Sept. 16 from 9 to 10 a.m.

Delta Township - Eaton County: Oct. 7 from 9 to 10 a.m.

STAY CONNECTED. STAY SOCIAL.



facebook.com/LansingChamber



twitter.com/LansingChamber



@LansingRegionalChamber



Lansing Regional Chamber of Commerce

THANK YOU RENEWING MEMBERS

A. Dean Watkins - East, Inc.
 Art Craft Display, Inc.
 Rathbun Agency
 Principal Financial Group
 Fifth Third Bank
 Mulder Company
 Wickens Group
 Moore Trosper Construction Co.
 Neogen Corporation
 Girl Scouts Heart of Michigan
 Plant Professionals, The, Inc.
 Michigan Orthopedic Center
 CG Financial Services
 Mayberry Homes
 Comcast
 Liquid Web, Inc.
 Triton Industries Inc.-Manitou
 Pontoon Boats
 Flooring America - Carpet Studio
 Integrated Strategies Incorporated
 LEAP (Lansing Economic Area
 Partnership)
 Meridian Company, The
 Equanimity Wealth Management
 KTM Industries, Inc.
 TGG Solutions
 Day Family Dental
 InVerve Marketing Inc.
 Klug Law Firm
 Lansing Sanitary Supply, Inc.
 Mark Voss Agency - Farm Bureau
 Insurance
 The Willows at East Lansing

On Target Living
 Pizza House
 Riehl Solutions, Inc.
 Adna Technologies
 Clark Trombley Randers
 Fishbeck
 Personnel World - Holt
 Transworld Business Advisors of
 Lansing
 Contract Supply, Inc.
 County Road Association of
 Michigan
 Inspired Home Real Estate &
 Staging
 The Law Office of Reid Felsing
 Lowery Underground Service LLC
 Robinwood Landing Alzheimer's
 Special Care Center
 Bergmann Associates, Inc.
 Happy's Pizza
 Human Capital Consulting Group,
 Inc.
 McCormick Rehabilitation
 Associates, Inc.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

REDEMPTION CANNABIS

(517) 909-0076
 1129 N. Washington Ave.
 Lansing, MI 48906
www.redemptioncanna.com

TRHC

(517) 669-6024
 240 S. Bridge St.
 DeWitt, MI 48820
www.trhc-llc.com

CHAMBER MILESTONES

We'd like to offer a special salute to these great organizations who reached milestone anniversaries as Lansing Regional Chamber of Commerce (LRCC) members this month. Thank you for your continued support throughout the years!

Michigan Dental Association

50 Years

Disability Network Capital Area

20 Years

American Fifth Spirits

5 Years

Abbott Road Mini Storage

30 Years

NTH Consultants, Ltd.

20 Years

DeBruin Law PLLC

5 Years

Great Lakes Treatment Corp.

30 Years

Personnel World, Inc.

15 Years

Ritter Painting Contractors, LLC

5 Years

Kramer Management Group Inc.

10 Years

Union Home Mortgage

5 Years

LRCC members have unparalleled access to company and staff profiles on the LRCC website. To access and update this information at any point, visit lansingchamber.org and enter your username and password. If you have not yet logged onto the site, please follow the simple password reset instructions. Call (517) 487-6340 with any questions.



Grand Rapids ♦ Lansing ♦ Detroit
 Promo Code: LFCS0806
www.chasecreative.com



Relax.
 Enjoy your
 event, **live** or
virtual.
 We've got this.

Staying Connected During Covid: mConnexions Launches Video Series to Connect Experts to the Community

BY: CASSADEE JACKSON, KOLT COMMUNICATIONS

LANSING-BASED MARKETING AGENCY MCONNEXIONS is spearheading the challenge of connecting valuable resources to the community through virtual communication. On March 15, mConnexions launched a live Facebook interview series called *Expert Connexions* as a way to offer the resources and answers the community needed to cope with the global impact of COVID-19.

“As a virtual agency, we were already working remotely and knew that we could help others make the transition,” said Julie Holton, owner and principal strategist of mConnexions. “I may not have all the answers, but I do have connections! After spending 12 years as an executive producer in TV news, I wanted to leverage that experience and my network, so we launched Expert Connections as a way to connect people to the answers they needed.”

mConnexions has featured over 50 interviews with experts from industries such as legal, accounting, mental health, and non-profit organizations to offer insight on how to successfully navigate through the pandemic. The online series has reached tens of thousands of people, averaging 30,000 views.

“It has truly been a group effort from our community, not just mConnexions,” said Holton. “Experts have been kind enough to donate their time, pro bono, to share their knowledge and advice with those in need. We could not have made the series without them.”

mConnexions developed the concept for the *Expert Connexions* video series after meeting regularly to discuss and decompress during the massive shift to life through screens. The mConnexions team has worked through economic crisis and technology booms, but COVID-19’s impact was a dramatic change on a personal level. The team was able to channel their personal and professional challenges into a learning experience for the community as a whole.



“Our internal motto is ‘we are good people doing good work for good people’,” said Holton. “It may be basic, but that is what it’s all about – connecting with people and building relationships.”

To learn more about mConnexions, call (517) 208-2087, email connect@mconnexions.com, or visit www.mconnexions.com. The *Expert Connexions* video series can be viewed through the mConnexions website and on Facebook. ■



FIND AN AGENT NEAR YOU
AccidentFund.com/Groups

5%

Up-front savings on your workers’ compensation premium*

Accident Fund offers group discount rates to members of your chamber of commerce.



* IA, KS, MO, NC, TN, TX and WI do not allow for the 5% up-front discount due to state filings.

Potter Park Zoo Celebrates Centennial Anniversary: 100 Years of Conservation

BY: CASSADEE JACKSON, KOLT COMMUNICATIONS



POTTER PARK ZOO HAS BEEN A FAMILY FAVORITE for those of all ages for the past 100 years. The zoo opened in 1920 and since then has become home to 160 species. The intimate 20-acre zoo nestled within the 102-acre Potter Park brings animals from across the globe to your backyard!

“100 years of inspiring conservation of animals and the natural world is certainly something to celebrate,” said Amy L. Morris-Hall, executive director of the Potter Park Zoological Society. “We are excited to feature over 20 new signs throughout the park to show how the zoo has grown and evolved over the last century.”

Potter Park Zoo has been accredited by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) since 1986 and has received the prestigious AZA Quarter Century Award that recognizes Zoos and Aquariums that are AZA-accredited continuously for 25 years or more. Potter Park Zoo follows a master plan that embodies three goals: excellent animal welfare, impactful conservation, and financial sustainability.

“Potter Park Zoo has been home to many endangered species over the years,” said Morris-Hall. “Our most recent addition was born here in December. Doppsee, our 12-year old eastern black rhino, gave birth to Potter Park Zoo’s first-ever rhino calf, Jaali.”

Eastern black rhinos are critically endangered with current estimates of 5,000 of the black rhinos living in the wild. Jaali, pronounced “Jolly,” is among the 50 black rhinos in the care of AZA-accredited zoos. Jaali’s birth and well-being are critical to the species as there is an average of less than two black rhino calves born each year under human care.

Potter Park Zoo is currently limiting the number of visitors who may visit at one time. Timed entry tickets may be reserved online. Groups are asked to explore at their own pace but practice social distancing and wear a mask.



Potter Park Zoo is located at 1301 S. Pennsylvania Ave in Lansing. To learn about Potter Park Zoo or reserve your tickets, email zoocontact@ingham.org, call (517) 483-4222, or visit potterparkzoo.org. ■





FIRST NATIONAL BANK *of Michigan*



Pictured left to right:
Patty Barnas, Jennifer Marsh, Melanie Squires

Commercial Banking • Treasury Management

Full service branch
opening soon!

fnbmichigan.com
330 Marshall St., Suite 200 | 517.319.8000



McLaren Greater Lansing Hospital Utilizing Innovative Construction Practices from Start to Finish

BY: MATTIE MILNE, KOLT COMMUNICATIONS

MCLAREN GREATER LANSING continues to implement the most innovative building practices to complete its state-of-the-art healthcare campus set to open early 2022.

Breaking ground in December 2018, the McLaren team has completed the structure and much of the enclosure of the \$450 million healthcare campus. Though impressive strides have been made, there is still much work to be done.

Austin Holcomb, director of facilities management, contracted from Kramer Management Group, says they are beginning to install drywall and are on track for construction completion in late 2021.

“Off-site work allows the team to manage tight schedules, trade labor shortages, and avoid weather impacts. We build the unitized sections in a warehouse and later transport them to the job site for installation,” Holcomb says. “We are truly on the cutting edge of technology when it comes to prefabricating crucial infrastructure elements off-site.”

Long corridors, like the patient floor, contain many critical building services, including HVAC piping and ductwork and electrical systems that have been completed at a nearby facility, creating a much safer and effective work environment. Similar practices are used for the vertical HVAC distribution, exterior glass, and other small scale projects.

Kevin Dettling, mid-Michigan branch and pre-construction manager from Limbach Company, echoes the fact inventive work is being done, and the economic value and expertise Michigan-based trade workers bring to the table. Additionally, much of the equipment and materials have been purchased from local vendors, touching several businesses in the Lansing community.

“Limbach saw the opportunity to increase productivity mechanically, electrically, and architecturally. Forty percent of our work on the patient floor is being done off-site, eliminating the need for ladders or lifts,” Dettling says. “We are proud to be part of an impactful project and hope our work will help pave the way for future improvements in building practices in Michigan.”

When complete, the facility will provide a 240-bed hospital, cancer center, and medical services building. In addition to healthcare, educational and medical research opportunities, the construction has involved well over 300 skilled trade workers.

From the project’s launch in 2018, the goal was clear: Utilize ingenious construction and design practices. And once McLaren Greater Lansing Hospital is complete, there will be no better framework to house some of the most outstanding medical workers—improving health care for the entire community.

For further information and updates on this project visit redesignhealthcare.mclaren.org. ■



For Rivers of Life Church COVID-19 is an Opportunity to Serve



RIVERS OF LIFE CHURCH in Holt, Mich., believes this is a season where the church has the greatest windows of opportunity to serve its community. When COVID-19 hit, they realized that the most significant needs were food, childcare, and employment. Pastors Jesse and Brigitte Brown, responded quickly by offering their facility to meet two of the three needs. They put together a team that served and dropped off food for families throughout Lansing. In addition, they provided childcare (K-6th grade), for essential workers.

As the plan was being strategically implemented, more and more people from the community wanted to offer their assistance. Several local businesses donated food for weekly lunches, some personally catered food in, while others contributed financially to the daily operational needs of the childcare.


From the onset of the childcare, one thing that was very important to the team, was that this childcare would not just be a place where kids spent their day, playing games and watching TV, but rather, it would consist of structured days of learning. The kids were taught the subjects of reading, writing, math, and science, by certified teachers and those with degrees in education. Their days also consisted of arts and crafts, science experiments, entrepreneurial projects, quiet time, and of course, recess! There was never a dull moment for the kids, as this amazing team of volunteers poured their time and energy into each child.

Some of the extra-curricular activities included making their own bouncy balls, painting their own creative pictures and distributing them to local nursing homes, writing about their life goals, and building their own restaurants, including putting together their own menus with prices. These things were displayed to parents and grandparents at their version of parent-teacher conferences.

As Rivers of Life gears up to commit to another four months of childcare, due to the pandemic, they are committed to upholding the same safety regulations and standards of excellence as they did before. First and foremost, temperatures are checked for every adult and student, and every child and volunteer must wash their hands upon entering the building. Background checks are done on every teacher and volunteer.

Services are available, Monday through Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 3 p.m., with an after school program from 3 to 6 p.m.

For more information, contact Priscilla Bordayo, event director, at PriscillaBordayo.com or (469) 658-2724. ■



Keeping
passengers safe
is our #1 priority

flylansing.com

University Research Corridor on the Frontlines of the COVID-19 Battle

FRONTLINE HEALTHCARE WORKERS AND FIRST RESPONDERS have rightfully been viewed as heroes in the COVID-19 battle. These include more than 1,100 healthcare professionals representing the University Research Corridor (URC), an alliance between Michigan State University, University of Michigan, and Wayne State University. Some unsung heroes are the researchers of the URC. More than 450 new COVID-19 projects and research studies have been conducted to understand the virus better, reduce viral spread, develop new treatments and potential vaccines, and support survivors, frontline workers, and the public through the crisis.



Affolter-Caine

“We are research partners with more than 80 hospitals across our state, from Marquette to Macomb County,” said Dr. Britany Affolter-Caine, executive director, Michigan’s University Research Corridor. “In Southeast Michigan, Wayne State and four metropolitan Detroit hospital systems are collaborating on large-scale COVID-19 drug trials. U-M’s clinics and hospitals have made rapid adjustments



to protect healthcare workers while increasing the number of COVID-19 patients who can receive world-class care.”

MSU researchers developed a test to detect coronavirus that is more accurate than those currently available. Using different chemical reagents than those in short supply for the standard test, is helping address the national shortage of testing kits and speeding up results.

“We’re not just producing faster results to tests, we’re also producing more doctors and nurses to help provide care,” said Dr. Affolter-Caine. “Four out of every 10 doctors in Michigan graduated from a URC university. The URC universities graduated 2,468 medical professionals in 2018, more than any peer university research cluster in the nation for the second year. The URC schools also awarded the most nursing degrees.”

The three URC institutions have been active in several other COVID-19 related issues, including working in the areas of supply chain and food safety. In the area of mental health, the universities are publishing articles and tips on how to deal with isolation and anxiety, balancing working at home while caring for children, transitioning to virtual workspaces, and techniques to avoid burnout.

“Experts at all three URC universities are focused on addressing the disproportionate toll this virus is taking on African Americans, wherever mental and physical health disparities exist,” said Affolter-Caine. “President Wilson, former deputy director of the National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities and now a member of Governor Whitmer’s Coronavirus Task Force on Racial Disparities, has urged local, state and national leadership to focus on what can be done to narrow racial disparities through more effective communications targeted toward African American communities and removal of barriers to testing and care.”

All three URC institutions have also been involved in helping business owners figure out ways to deal with the economic chaos COVID-19 has been causing. For example, the Palmer Career Management Center at MSU hosts forums to help corporate and mid-size business partners facing hiring challenges and to share the best ways to integrate employees and interns. All three presidents serve on Gov. Gretchen Whitmer’s Michigan Economic Recovery Council.

The URC is focused on increasing economic prosperity and connecting Michigan to the world. Learn more about the work of Michigan’s University Research Corridor at the virtual Lansing Regional Chamber of Commerce Economic Club on Thursday, Sept. 24. Visit members.lansingchamber.org/event-calendar for more information. ■

EXPERIENCE | YOU CAN BUILD ON.





Rohde Construction

Experience to Build On

4087 Brockton SE | Kentwood, MI 49512 | rohdeconstruction.com

616.698.0880



Lansing Regional Chamber Endorsed Candidates Score Big Wins in August Primary Election

CANDIDATES ENDORSED BY THE LANSING REGIONAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE (LRC-PAC) scored big wins during the Aug. 4 primary election. 96 percent of LRC-PAC endorsed candidates have successfully advanced to the November general election.

“We are pleased that voters are clearly aligned with the priorities we announced in making our endorsements earlier this summer,” said Tonia Olson, chair, LRC-PAC Board of Directors. “We need elected officials ready to do the hard work of overcoming the setbacks that have occurred due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and are prepared to ensure local budgets are fiscally sound while continuing to provide core services to residents.”

“In these uncertain times, voters certainly made it clear that experience and effective leadership matters,” said Steve Japinga, vice president of public affairs, Lansing Regional Chamber of Commerce. “The primary results are a step in the right direction for our region. Now, it is on to November.”

The bipartisan list LRC-PAC endorsed candidates that secured victory in the primary election includes:

Clinton County Board of Commissioners

1st District: Kam Washburn (R)
2nd District: David Pohl (R)
3rd District: Bruce DeLong (R)
4th District: Ken Mitchell (R)
5th District: Bob Showers (R)
6th District: Dwight Washington (D)
7th District: Adam Stacey (R)

Eaton County Board of Commissioners

1st District: Rob Piercefield (D)
3rd District: Terrance Augustine (D)
13th District: Jim Mott (R)

Ingham County Board of Commissioners

1st District: Vic Celentino (D)
3rd District: Derrell Slaughter (D)
4th District: Bryan Crenshaw (D)
9th District: Erin Graham (D)
12th District: Mark Polsdofer (D)
13th District: Randy Schafer (R)

Delhi Township

Supervisor: John Hayhoe (R)
Trustee: Patrick Brown (D)
Trustee: Stuart Goodrich (R)

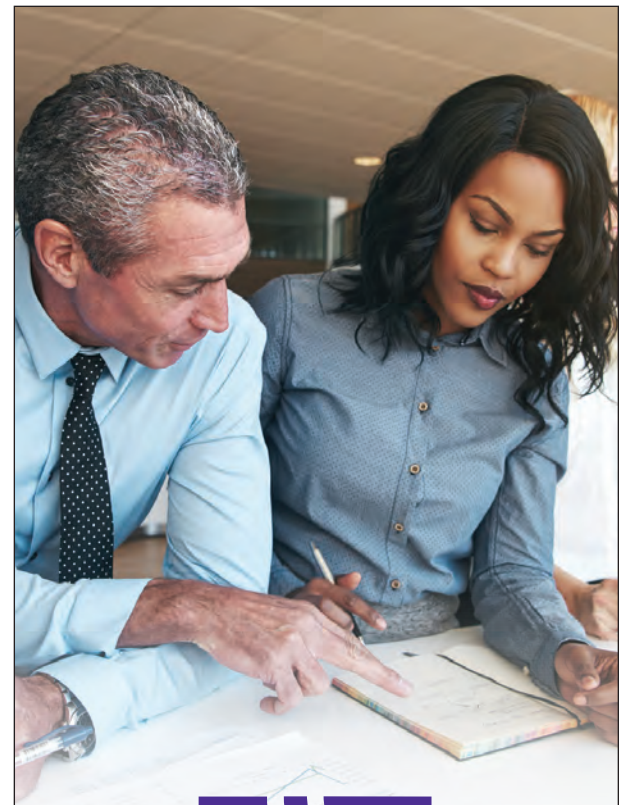
Delta Township:

Supervisor: Ken Fletcher (D)
Clerk: Mary Clark (D)
Treasurer: Dennis Fedewa (D)
Trustee: Fonda Brewer (D)
Trustee: Andrea Cascarilla (D)
Trustee: Karen Mojica (D)

Meridian Township:

Supervisor: Ron Styka (D)
Clerk: Deborah Guthrie (D)
Treasurer: Phil Deschaine (D)
Trustee: Patricia Herring-Jackson (D)
Trustee: Dan Opsommer (D)
Trustee: Courtney Wisinski (D)

The LRC- PAC’s endorsement process includes a review of a candidate’s past performance, a written questionnaire, and in some cases, an in-person interview. Only after this process is completed and a vote of the LRC-PAC Board is taken can a candidate be endorsed and be considered for financial support. LRC-PAC will be making additional general election endorsements after the primary. ■



Become a business member today!

- Business checking and savings
- Business VISA® credit card options
- SBA-guaranteed business loans
- Treasury management/ACH
- Business lines of credit

Whether you’re a budding entrepreneur or a generations-old shop, CASE Credit Union has a business solution for you.

Call 517.393.7710, visit casecu.org or stop into one of our seven branch locations for more information.

Our service. Your success.

Federally Insured by NCUA
Equal Opportunity Lender

casecu.org

Lansing Regional Chamber Restructures Membership Team

BY: MICHELLE RAHL, VICE PRESIDENT OF MEMBER ENGAGEMENT, LANSING REGIONAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

THE LANSING REGIONAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE (LRCC) is proud to support this region's businesses navigating the COVID-19 pandemic. We have worked side-by-side with companies to secure funding, access PPE resources, find workers, and so much more. If you have ever wondered why a company needs its local chamber of commerce, I believe the answer has repeatedly shown itself during this crisis.



Rahl

We have restructured the LRCC membership team to maintain a high level of customer service and member engagement. We are pleased Marcy Rzepka and Daniel Rials will now focus solely on our renewing investors, which will allow them to utilize their skill sets and focus on providing unique and impactful business solutions for our current members.

Christine Zarkovich will leverage her natural networking abilities to identify, connect, and engage new businesses as LRCC members. Christine has over

five years of experience as a business development manager for the LRCC. Her volunteer work in the community makes her a strong brand ambassador for the LRCC and the Greater Lansing region.

Michelle Rahl will continue in her role as vice president of member engagement, providing the daily and long-term strategies for business development and investor retention. She will also continue her role as the liaison for our top-tier investors.

We are so excited about these changes and know it will significantly benefit our investors as we work through the challenges and opportunities that remain. As always, please let us know how we can be of any assistance. We are happy to help.

Things may be a little different, but we are still providing you opportunities to connect, grow, and thrive! If you have any questions about the LRCC membership team restructure, please contact Michelle Rahl at mrahl@lansingchamber.org. ■

TUNE IN FOR THE 26th ANNUAL ENTREPRENEURIAL AWARDS!



517 MAGAZINE PRESENTS
THE 2020 GREATER LANSING
ENTREPRENEURIAL AWARDS

Saturday, November 14
7 p.m. | WILX TV 10

Visit 517mag.com for more information

PLATINUM SPONSOR:



PRESENTED BY:



GOLD SPONSOR:



EDUCATION GETS A COVID-19 REBOOT

Perhaps nowhere has the rapidly changing and unprecedented nature of the COVID-19 pandemic altered the landscape and affected more lives than education. When the pandemic forced schools to close in March, educators were forced to scramble to establish online learning options. The levels of readiness to deliver online learning varied across school district boundaries.

“When this pandemic struck schools, we were all thrown into a tailspin quickly,” said Jason Mellema, superintendent, Ingham Intermediate School District (Ingham ISD). “Because we have outstanding relationships, we were able to lean into each other.”

There were many issues facing educators beyond providing online learning options. Most importantly, the awareness that thousands of students in the region would not be receiving adequate nutrition with schools closed. The schools in the Ingham ISD combined to serve more than one million meals to those in need over the next several months.

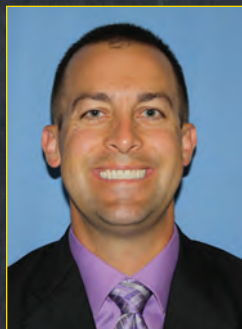
“We distribute a week’s worth of meals to any families with eligible children 18 and under or students with special needs ages 26 and under,” said Dori Leyko, superintendent, East Lansing Public School District.

Leyko and Mellema participated in the recent Lansing Economic Club forum, held Aug. 20, on the Changing Face of Education. They were joined on the panel by Kelly Blake, superintendent, Waverly School District, and Sam Sinicropi, superintendent, Lansing School District. The program was moderated by Peter Spadafore, deputy executive director for external relations, Michigan Association of Superintendents & Administrators.

Developing an Education Plan for Fall 2020

The adjusting and adapting that was forced on educators, parents, and students became an accepted reality that most of us thought would be short-term in nature. Unfortunately, COVID-19 continued to spread, and efforts to reopen society have been slowed.

Though a handful of K-12 schools set out to offer a blend of online and classroom learning, most will start the school year with online classes only. Lansing Schools were first to announce their screen-to-screen fall learning plan.



Mellema



Leyko



Sinicropi

“Hopefully we can begin to get our students back into the classroom at their school with their teachers by the end of the first marking period, which is around the first week in November,” said Sinicropi. “Our goal is to get kids back into the classroom as soon as possible. The screen-to-screen option is very different than online education, where students are basically on their own to learn. In Lansing, several different teachers are likely to be engaged directly with each student throughout the school day.”

One common denominator across all districts was the thorough, transparent, inclusive, and data-driven process used to approach how to proceed with fall classes – each district set-up committees, including key stakeholders of teachers, staff, parents, and administrators. Health experts were consulted regularly to guide health and safety protocols. Numerous surveys and public meetings were held to communicate information and take input.

“60 percent of our parents said they would prefer a virtual environment this fall if it were offered,” said Leyko. “That information was very useful in making our plans.”

As far as when to return to the classroom, Sinicropi said the district would need 3-4 weeks to prepare. The key questions all districts face if trying to determine when teachers, staff, parents, and health officials feel safe.

“With proper PPE (personal protective equipment) and safety protocols in place, people will feel more comfortable coming back first in a hybrid situation,” said Blake. “We’ll bring in small groups of students first and gauge how the traffic patterns are going and then build a larger group of kids back into the classroom.”

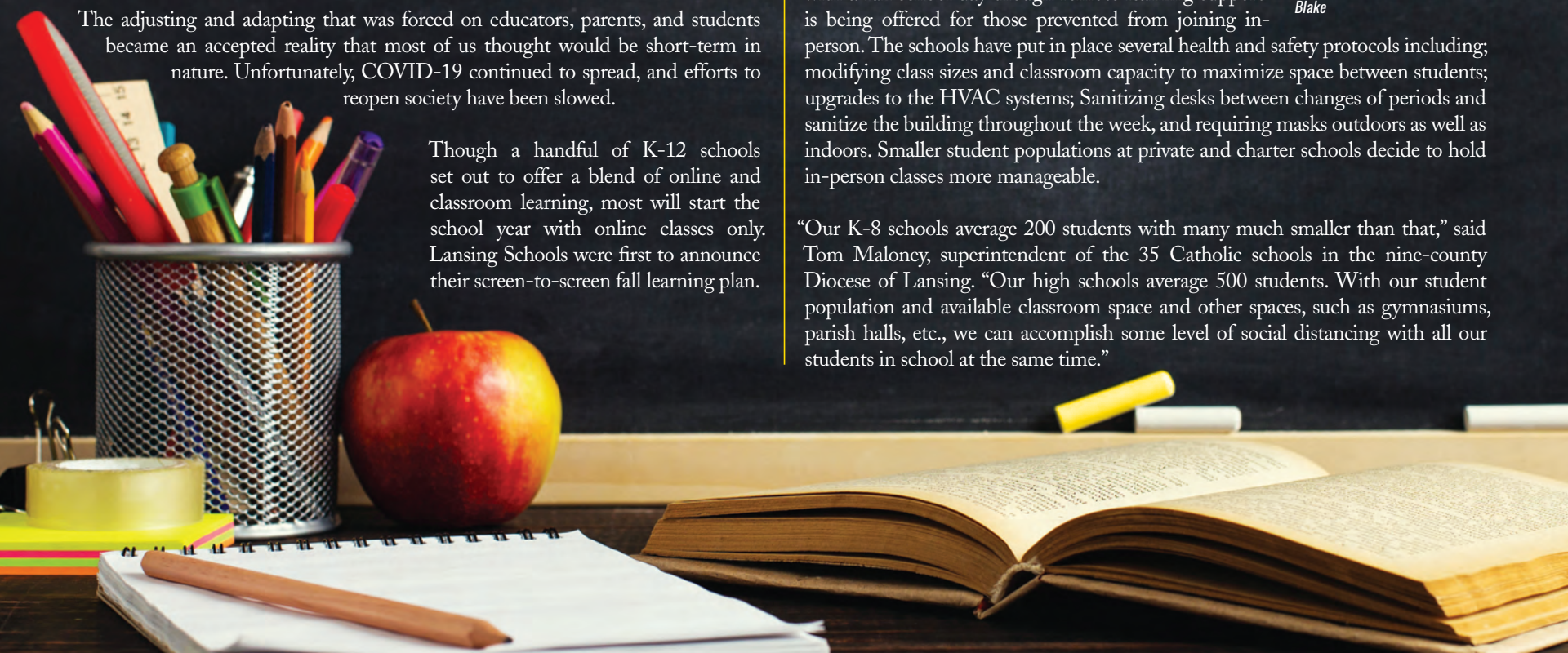


Blake

Private and Charter Schools

Lansing’s Catholic Schools will be open in-person, with a full school day though remote learning support is being offered for those prevented from joining in-person. The schools have put in place several health and safety protocols including: modifying class sizes and classroom capacity to maximize space between students; upgrades to the HVAC systems; Sanitizing desks between changes of periods and sanitize the building throughout the week, and requiring masks outdoors as well as indoors. Smaller student populations at private and charter schools decide to hold in-person classes more manageable.

“Our K-8 schools average 200 students with many much smaller than that,” said Tom Maloney, superintendent of the 35 Catholic schools in the nine-county Diocese of Lansing. “Our high schools average 500 students. With our student population and available classroom space and other spaces, such as gymnasiums, parish halls, etc., we can accomplish some level of social distancing with all our students in school at the same time.”



Similarly, Lansing Christian Schools opened with an emphasis on in-person classroom instruction, which is consistent with the Christian education mission is investing in the formation of the whole student.

“We believe that is best accomplished in the context of meaningful relationships in the community where students can feel connections with others and an inherent sense of belonging,” said Wendy Hofman, head of school.



Hofman

While the priority is in-person learning, Lansing Christian has also developed a whole school remote learning plan to support continuity of learning for individual students or the entire school if changing circumstances force schools to close. Though parents and teachers have been supportive, Hofman says a few parents are choosing to home school for this year. At the same time, some parents of public-school students facing the prospect of remote learning at least for the fall are looking at in-person learning at Lansing Christian as an alternative.

Whether offering online, in-person or hybrid, health and safety have been the foremost concern for educators. Those schools offering classroom instruction have put numerous special protocols in place to protect students, teachers, and support staff. Lansing Christian has an expansive campus that can accommodate the entire population while maintaining physical distancing. Lansing Christian has a separate ventilation system for each classroom and purchased additional furniture to spread students out. The school is also employing a nurse to be on campus full time in 2020-2021 to support all medically related circumstances, including COVID-related circumstances, and is also providing social/emotional and mental health support for students, families, and staff, along with a variety of behavioral health services.

“Returning to school is going to bring challenges, said Hofman. “We are asking our entire school community to do this together. That whole notion of loving our neighbor will take on practicality that maybe we haven’t known before.”

Relevant Academy of Eaton County is a tuition-free public school academy for high school-aged students who are ready to start again and redefine themselves. The school provides an alternative pathway to earn a high school diploma for students who have struggled to experience success in a traditional setting. This fall, the school is offering a hybrid schedule for any student wishing to attend face-to-face. Those who do not attend face-to-face will continue to work virtually.

Jennifer Varney, executive director of Relevant Academy, said that most parents and teachers wanted to return to the classroom.

“Most of the parents wanted their students back in some face-to-face, understanding that they want their student’s health and well-being be at the forefront,” said Varney. “Teachers overwhelmingly wanted to be back. They miss the structure and interaction with the students.”



Varney

Extra-Curricular Activities Curtailed

The Michigan High School Athletic Association (MHSAA) announced it was moving football from fall to spring. MHSAA is allowing competition in so-called low impact sports. Some local districts are proceeding with low impact sports while others, including Lansing Schools, announced the cancellation of all fall extra-curricular activities



READY TO START DEAN TRANSPORTATION

Dean Transportation is thankful for the heroes on the front lines taking significant risks to keep us safe from COVID-19. During the pandemic, Dean has been standing ready to support critical needs in our community, including the delivery of food and academic materials to students learning virtually.

As education systems return to in-person or hybrid forms of instruction this fall, Dean’s priority is the safety of students, employees, and the public. In response to the health pandemic, Dean has enhanced its operating practices, particularly focusing on a well-rounded approach to vehicle cleanliness and preventative measures.

Undoubtedly, COVID-19 has modified Dean’s approach to student transportation for the foreseeable future. Since the statewide Pre K-12 school closure on March 16, Dean has spent hundreds of hours researching, testing, and evaluating cleaning and disinfecting methods, including emerging methods of application. Throughout the process, Dean has developed relationships with local subject matter experts that have advised Dean on the proper cleaning and disinfecting practices and other operating measures to respond to the evolving health crisis.

Dean Transportation’s approach to restarting student transportation addresses preventative measures, proactive measures, and additional enhancements to standard operating procedures to meet and exceed requirements and recommendations in Michigan’s 2020-2021 Return to School Roadmap. These enhanced measures include mandatory use of masks by students and passengers on-board Dean buses, use and availability of hand sanitizer at the front of each bus, personal protective equipment for drivers and staff, increased vehicle ventilation, daily employee health screenings, and a well-rounded approach to vehicle cleanliness focusing on multi-level cleaning and disinfecting practices. These mitigation tools, augmented by the application of MicrobeCare™ antimicrobial on all Dean school buses, are all critical components of a comprehensive approach that supports in-person PreK-12 instruction and the restart of student transportation.

Dean Transportation was founded more than fifty years ago based on the premise that all children should have an opportunity to access educational programs in our community. Today, Dean’s mission is even more critical as schools respond to the COVID-19 health pandemic, and access to education and services are needed more than ever.

“I know how disappointing the cancellation of sports and extra-curricular activities may be for students, coaches and parents, but the school district must make decisions that make safety our top-priority,” said Sinicropi. “Unlike college and professional sports where decisions are driven by money, our decisions about sports and extracurricular activities must be made with safety as our defining factor. We initially were optimistic and had a timetable and protocols ready for the safe return to school, including sports and extra-curricular activities, but at this moment, we made the tough decision to cancel until further notice to be safe.”

Higher Ed Offers Blended Options

The impact of COVID-19 has been felt in a significant way in higher education. Michigan State University (MSU) is estimating nearly \$300 million in lost revenue for FY 2021 due to the impact of COVID-19. It anticipates an additional \$300 million in lost revenue to the university’s general fund budget and auxiliary units.

After initially electing to offer in-person classes this fall, MSU President Samuel L. Stanley reversed course on Aug. 18 and announced that fall classes would be

EDUCATION GETS A COVID-19 REBOOT

online only and asked undergraduate students to remain at home. There are some exceptions for the colleges of Law, Human Medicine, Nursing, Osteopathic Medicine, and Veterinary Medicine as well as all graduate programs.

“Given the current status of the virus in our country — particularly what we are seeing at other institutions as they re-populate their campus communities — it has become evident to me that, despite our best efforts and strong planning, it is unlikely we can prevent widespread transmission of COVID-19 between students if our undergraduates return to campus,” said President Stanley.

Lansing Community College is offering a mix of online, hybrid, and classroom instruction, the majority of which will be online. Classroom instruction will be mostly limited to select courses that require hands-on components, such as welding, aviation, heavy equipment, and EMS/paramedic.

“We are prepared to provide our students with high-quality, accredited, online course options that will count the same as any on-campus class,” said Steve Robinson, president, LCC. “We have been focused on strengthening our online learning opportunities for some time, and we are proud to have such a large online course catalog available during these uncertain times.”

Davenport University is also offering both classroom and online instruction for fall semester.

The Future Outlook

One of the learning lessons for education as a result of the pandemic is that traditional brick and mortar classroom experiences may never be the same. The pandemic forced a higher level of creativity and innovation, which may be a good thing for the long-term. Lansing Christian’s Wendy Hofman says the changes brought on by the pandemic have been an eye-opener for everyone in education.

“If we are going to utilize remote learning as part of how we do education, we want to look at how we can do it most effectively,” said Hofman. “As we do that, we have to ask ourselves, what is the teacher’s role? What is the real value of that relationship?”



Schools in the Ingham Intermediate School District quickly ramped up to meet a need in the community and served more than one million meals those students in need.

And, what is the value of being together.”

“What is school going to look like,” asked Varney. “Not all traditional models fit all kids. Down the road, all traditional schools are going to have to look at different options.”

“Sometimes attendance isn’t as important as are these students understanding the standards that we want them to understand,” said Blake. “Are there easier, more efficient ways for them to get to the learning they need to get to?”

“We are seeing a shift towards seeing if students are mastering content and competency versus checking the boxes and sitting in seats,” said Spadafore.

Mellema noted that educators need to provide both synchronous (live) and asynchronous (videos, recorded lessons) approaches.

“What we are learning is that asynchronous education can have a positive impact for students as long as they can remove the barriers for connectivity and technology,” said Mellema. “We can find ways that students can watch lessons time and time again and gather the information. There is value in being able to go through a lesson more than one time.”

Something everyone agrees upon: you cannot replace the in-person classroom experience, which everyone wants to return to as soon as safely possible.

“The last few months being in my office at East Lansing High School, it has been lonely not seeing kids,” said Leyko. “In the meantime, we will make the best decisions we can and work to get our kids back into the classroom as quickly and safely.”

“Be patient with us,” said Sinicropi. “We are going to make mistakes. This is all new to everybody. Not only be patient us, be patient with each other, and be patient with yourself. It is a different world right now, and we are all trying to adjust to it.” ■



Spadafore



Save money and live healthier with Blue365®

Membership has its benefits

Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan and Blue Care Network members can score big savings on a variety of health-related products and services from businesses in Michigan and across the United States.

From fitness and wellness to lifestyle and healthy eating, we’re got plenty of deals to keep you and your family healthy. Learn more at bcbsm.com.



“Highest Member satisfaction among Commercial Health Plans in Michigan”

Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan and Blue Care Network are nonprofit corporations and independent licensees of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association. For J.D. Power 2018 award information, visit jdpower.com/awards.

R086366



Three Lansing Schools Student Receive Scholarships from the Latino Advisory Committee

THE LATINO ADVISORY COMMITTEE has awarded three Lansing Schools students \$1,000 scholarships. The scholarships are designed to help the students continue their educational pursuits. Scholarship recipients are:

- **Nayeli Lisette Arroyo:** Eastern High School
- **Juan Morales:** Everett High School
- **Carlos-Aldo Lopez:** Resendiz



Arroyo



Morales



Lopez

The Committee typically offers \$2,000 to \$2,500 annually, but decided they had the funding and almost doubled what they usually give thanks to some charitable giving. Each year since 2012, the Committee puts together a Program Booklet that highlights the different LAC supporters and is handed out at the ceremony.

“The hope is to grow the scholarship fund to \$5,000 by 2022 and \$10,000 by 2025,” said Sein Paul Benavides, treasurer, Latino Advisory Committee.

The Latino Advisory Committee was created in April of 1972 to recognize, educate, and empower parents to take a proactive role in their children’s educational and personal development. They work in partnership with the Lansing School District to advocate for Latino families and their students throughout the calendar year.

For more information about the Latino Advisory Committee or to place an advertisement in the program booklet, contact Sein Paul Benavides at seinpaul65@gmail.com or visit the Facebook group page at www.facebook.com/groups/162668343809790/

Martin

For When You're Ready.



Supporting Business Communities

517 351-2200 / martincommercial.com



The Lansing Regional Chamber of Commerce (LRCC)'s August Member Mixer was a perfect opportunity for members to connect, grow, and thrive, especially during the challenging time of the pandemic. We were pleased to welcome WLNS as our virtual sponsor and appreciated a special welcome from news anchor Sheri Jones and a fall programming sizzle reel! Congratulations to our \$20 Potent Potables gift card winners: Julie Tadgerson, Katie Krick, Amy Wilczek, Tammy Lemmer, and Cecily Keim. Each virtual Member Mixer provides attendees with intimate breakout sessions and a group roundtable. Join us on Sept. 15 for our next Member Mixer!



On Aug. 4, the LRCC was pleased to celebrate with Rose Tantraphol, APR, and the team at Moonsail North during the grand opening of their new headquarters at 410 S. Cedar St., Suite C in downtown Lansing. Moonsail North is an advertising agency that specializes in storytelling. They held a masked-up grab and go event, where community residents and corporate partners could come and celebrate! Congratulations to the team!



Christine Zarkovich, business development manager, LRCC, recently participated in the Ronald McDonald House of Mid-Michigan (RMHMM)'s Golf for the House. She assisted McCardel Restoration staff members, who were the cold towel sponsor for the event.



The LRCC held a ribbon cutting for Love's Travel Stop and Country Store on Aug. 4. The event was held at their Grand Ledge location, which is located at 7300 W. Grand River Ave. Tom and Judy Love opened their first filling station in Watonga, Okla., and established their motto of "clean places, friendly faces." Their tradition continues with every new location. Love's goal is to offer the best customer service no matter what purpose their customers have for visiting them. Love's is happy to serve the community of Lansing and their professional driver customers in the area.

MAGNIFY. MOTIVATE. MOBILIZE.

The **M3 Method** delivers a "wow" strategy to our clients using the **Power of Three**.

Find out what M3 Group can do for you today. Call 517.203.3333.



M3 Group

M3Group.biz

Community Mourns the Passing of James Butler III

JAMES W. BUTLER, a business and community leader, passed away on Friday, August 7 at 77. Among his many years of community service included serving as chair of the Lansing Regional Chamber of Commerce (LRCC) board of directors in 2001 and as a member of the LRCC political action committee, LRC-PAC.

“I am deeply saddened by the news of the passing of James Butler, who was a true business and community leader,” said Tim Daman, LRCC president and chief executive officer. “He was a dedicated community servant who served in leadership positions with many organizations



BUTLER

and was committed to building a better region. James Butler served his country and was a decorated veteran of the Vietnam War. He was honored with the John E. Demmer Award by Volunteers of America Michigan. He leaves a legacy that will be remembered by those who knew and worked with him on many important community issues. He will be missed.”

Among James Butler’s notable accomplishments as a community leader was the longest serving member of the Dr. Martin Luther King Commission of Mid-Michigan. He was also chair of the Lansing Entertainment and Public Facilities Authority, the board Sparrow Health System, Physicians Health Plan, and the state broadband authority. He was employed for 30 years by IBM.

Butler was a military veteran of the Vietnam War, earning the Combat Infantry Badge, Army Commendation Medal, two Purple Hearts and four Bronze Stars. ■

Bringing Back the Lost Art of Civility

NOLAN FINLEY AND STEPHEN HENDERSON do not agree about much. The two celebrated journalists look at issues through a very different lens: Finley as the conservative editorial page editor of the Detroit News and Henderson, a liberal formerly writing in the same capacity for the Detroit Free Press, and current public TV talk show host. Despite their differences, the two are good friends and agree on one thing – the need to restore civility in our relationships and national dialogue. That is why the two started something called the Civility Project, which seeks to bring people of opposing viewpoints together for healthy disagreement, personal interactions, and constructive conversations. The pair spoke about their project at a virtual webinar sponsored by the Lansing Regional Chamber of Commerce.

“We thought this was a way to get people to start to understand each other better and the values that shape our differing viewpoints,” said Henderson. “We need to understand where each other’s ideas come from.”

Americans used to engage in civil conversation with people of opposing viewpoints – enjoying the banter and debate. Today, many Americans believe they can’t be friends with people whose politics are different.



FINLEY



HENDERSON

And with a global pandemic, erupting race inequities, and political upheaval, there is no better time to build civility.

“We’ve allowed our politics to drive us into a bunker mentality,” said Finley. “Compromise and collaboration are dirty words. We’ve developed an all or none mentality.”

Finley and Henderson said the best way to build civility is to be willing to figure out what motivates others and, most importantly, be willing to listen.

“Listening is not just being quiet while the other person talks,” said Henderson. “It involves really trying to understand what the other person is trying to say.”

The journalists encouraged the audience not to be afraid of disagreement or controversy and to be open to being changed because of conversations with others. They also stressed the importance of taking hate out of the equation.

Delta Dental is the Civility Project sponsor and facilitated the program with Nolan Finley and Stephen Henderson. ■

NEW HIRES

Martin Waymire, a Lansing-based, full-service public relations and digital marketing firm with a focus on public policy, announced the addition of account executive, **Nate Darling** and assistant account executives, **Charlotte Taylor** and **Madison Wertz** to its award-winning team. Darling joins Martin Waymire from **Foster Swift Collins & Smith**, a Lansing law firm with over a century of practice. Taylor joins Martin Waymire as a recent graduate of Michigan State University, where she received her Bachelor of Science in advertising management with a minor in public relations. Wertz is a recent graduate of Michigan State University with a Bachelor of Arts in media and information and a minor in interactive media design.



Webb Sharpe

Peckham has named **Lisa Webb Sharpe** as its new chief operating officer (COO). Webb Sharpe began her appointment in late August 2020, and join the C-suite to lead the award-winning organization in the achievement of its mission and business operations. As COO, Webb Sharpe will be responsible for overseeing the strategy and business operations of Peckham's supply chain services, manufacturing and environmental services lines of business in addition to its marketing and business development division. She will also manage and maintain internal and external customer relations with Peckham's primary contractors and stakeholders. Webb Sharpe recently served as the executive vice president of Lansing Community College, where she leveraged more than three decades of experience to benefit nearly 12,000 students.

Maner Costerisan has been busy strengthening its team with the managerial promotion of **Tara**



Drost

Brynn-Young Drost and the hiring of two new employees in the audit department. Drost joined Maner Costerisan in 2016 as an associate in the tax department. Maner Costerisan also welcomed the following individuals to the team: **Matt Candela** is an associate in the audit department. Before joining Maner Costerisan, Candela spent two-and-a-half years at Seber Tans PLC. **Caleb Grey Samborski** is an associate in the audit department. Before joining Maner Costerisan, Samborski was an auditor at the Michigan Gaming Control Board.



Branch

NAI Mid-Michigan is pleased to announce that **Jeffrey Branch** has joined the brokerage department as a commercial advisor. Jeffrey has been with NAI Mid-Michigan for six years in facilities management.

AWARDS



Smith

Foster Swift Collins & Smith litigator and name partner, **Webb "Tony" Smith**, was awarded the Outstanding Achievement Award by the Negligence Law Section of the State Bar of Michigan (SBM) in a virtual ceremony Aug. 13. The Outstanding Achievement Award is given annually to an attorney who has exhibited the highest standards of practice and commitment for the benefit of the SBM section.

The **Michigan American Council on Education (MI-ACE) Women's Network** has selected



Davis



Hamilton

Dr. MaryLee Davis, a longtime Michigan State University administrator and community leader, as one of its two 2020 Public Policy Pioneer honorees. MI-ACE's nonpartisan Public Policy Pioneer Award began in 2013 to champion Michigan women who have impacted public policy or taken precedent-breaking action on behalf of women and higher education. Davis has often been credited with "breaking the glass ceiling" throughout Michigan. At Michigan State University, she became the first woman administrator in the state and the Big Ten to work as a governmental affairs officer. She was the first woman to serve in the position of the corporate secretary of the MSU Board of Trustees. She also served as the first woman board chair for Sparrow Health System. Additionally, she was appointed by three governors to four Treasury Department positions that had a statewide impact, including serving as a Michigan Finance Authority Board member. 2020's second honoree is **Eva McCall Hamilton**, the first woman elected to the Michigan Legislature. The Grand Rapids native was elected to the Michigan Senate by a 2-to-1 margin in 1920, the first election in which women could vote.



Fuller

McLaren Greater Lansing nurse **Julie Fuller** was honored with the DAISY Award for Extraordinary Nurses. The award is part of the DAISY Foundation's program to recognize the exceptional care nurses provide every day. Fuller was rewarded by hospital leadership and co-workers and received a certificate commending her for being an

"You probably don't often get a thank you from the SELLER when you are representing a buyer but you sure deserved one in this transaction. No matter whether we are on the same side or opposite sides of the table I'll know that the deal is the best one for everybody because you were involved."

Dave Muyelle, Seller
831 N Washington Ave,
Lansing, MI

Nice People, Great Results

We're NAI Mid-Michigan.
Your Best Choice For Commercial Real Estate

“Extraordinary Nurse,” as well as a sculpture called “A Healer’s Touch,” hand-carved by artists of the Shona Tribe in Africa.



Harmer



Bongiovani



Dargatz

Three caregivers have received **Sparrow Eaton Hospital’s** highest honors for their exceptional contributions to patient care and the hospital’s success. The winners of the Fulton Awards of Excellence include **Brandy Harmer**, registered nurse, who received the clinical service award; **Linda Bongiovani**, release of information coordinator, who received the non-clinical service award; and **Sandra Dargatz**, office supervisor for SMG Charlotte Family Medicine, who received the leadership service award.

DISTINCTIONS

Four 2020 Clarkston High School and Brandon High School graduating seniors received scholarships from **Michigan State University Federal Credit Union**

(**MSUFCU**) for their college educations. Clarkston graduates **Nathan Abolish**, **Timothy O’Donnell**, and **Jordan Mountain**; and Brandon graduate **Alexia Weberian** each received a \$500 scholarship. Several students submitted their applications through the MSUFCU website or their school counselors. Recipients were selected by a scholarship committee, which included MSUFCU employees.

The **Greater Michigan Construction Academy (GMCA)** would like to recognize the students who completed their training from six different construction trades, including electrical, carpentry, HVAC, pipefitting, plumbing, and sheet metal. 2020 GMCA Graduates:

Electrical – **Samuel Bosworth**, **Zeth Caudill**, **Jonathan Clark**, **Logan Dean**, **Jay Ellithorpe**, **Cody Evans**, **Terrance Evans**, **Taylor Eyre**, **Noah Fuller**, **Johnathon Gross**, **Luke Hagy**, **Clayton Harger**, **Jason Honeman**, **Colt Johnson**, **Matthew Johnston**, **Alec Kababik**, **Scott Kenyon**, **Jonathon Krause**, **Lake Kuba**, **Brek LaFave**, **Sean Macklin**, **Drake Miller**, **Shadrach Miller**, **Kyle Moore**, **Nathan Mudd**, **Kevin Nico**, **Steel O’Boyle**, **James Oldham**, **Sean Phillips**, **Tanner Piechowiak**, **Riley Render**, **Aaron Rice**, **Cruz Rodriguez**, **Matt Russell**, **Connor Shankel**, **Austin Shattuck**, **Corey Siler**, **Miles Sipe**, **Dylan Smith**, **Chase Spedoske**, **Zachary Squires**, **James Steingreaber**, **Pete Stockton**, **David Summers**, **Alexander Tomiko**, **Henry Underwood**, **Lore Zuniga-Villegas**, and **Dylan Wentz**.

Carpentry – **Daniel Beebe**, **Patrick Budzinski**, **Brett Crawley**, **Daniel Harmon**, and **Jesse Mack**.

HVAC – **Justin Anlas**.

Pipefitting – **Chase Gohsman**, **James Hernick**, **Duane Jean**, **Joel Kennedy**, **Justin Laflure**, **Louise Rousse**, and **Timothy Wale**.

Plumbing – **Cody Cole**, **Zachary Donoghue**, **AnnaLisa Johnson**, **Nathaniel Niinisto**, and **Logan Schweinsberg**

Sheet Metal – **Stanley Fowle**.

Sparrow Ionia Hospital is among only three healthcare organizations statewide recognized as an Age-Friendly Health System for providing special care to those 65 and older. Sparrow Ionia was singled out by the Institute for Healthcare Improvement, through an initiative of the **Michigan Health & Hospital Association’s** Keystone Center, for working to create an age-friendly environment for patients.

As economies slowly begin to restart and Americans adjust to a vastly different professional and social landscape, the places in which we choose to live, work, and play are adjusting as well. According to Business Insider, one-third of Americans are considering moving to less densely populated places. In a recent list ranking the best places to live in the United States following the COVID-19 pandemic, Lansing is ranked No. 22, boasting one of the highest shares of jobs that can be done from home at 41%, and the cost of living 8.8% below the

national average. Additionally, with a population of 464,036 according to the 2010 census, the Lansing region is smack-dab in the middle of what Area Development describes as a “midsize” market: a metropolitan statistical area (MSA) with population between 150,000 and 1,000,000, which is exactly the type of reduced-density population Business Insider identifies Americans are increasingly seeking. Additionally, Lansing ranks No. 15 in BestCities.org’s 2020 rankings of America’s best small cities, citing an increasingly high-tech economy in the insurtech, medtech, and IT spaces.

ASK has been named one of the world’s best SMB managed service providers on the new annual Channel Futures SMB Hot 101 rankings for 2020. Applicants completed an exhaustive survey and application this spring to self-report product offerings, annual total and recurring revenues, revenue mix, growth opportunities, and company and customer demographic information. Winners were ranked on a unique methodology that weights revenue figures according to long-term health and viability, commitment to recurring revenue, and operational efficiency.



Duncan

Sparrow Eaton Hospital physical therapist, **Jeff Duncan**, PT, DPT, OCS, is now a board-certified orthopaedic specialist for physical therapy, adding to the high level of care already provided to area patients. Duncan earned a Doctor of Physical Therapy, and is part of a comprehensive orthopaedic team at Sparrow Eaton.

Maner Costerisan was recently named one of *Accounting Today’s Best Accounting Firms to Work For* in 2020. The 100 accounting firms recognized with the honor were chosen as part of a nationwide search by *Accounting Today* in partnership with Best Companies Group to create a quality workplace for employees and benefit the economy, workforce, and business. Maner Costerisan has been named to the list for five consecutive years.

Clark Construction Company was recently named as one of the 2020 *Cool Places to Work in Michigan*, as recognized by *Crain’s Detroit Business* and Best Companies Group. Clark ranked first among construction companies, fifth among medium-sized companies, and No. 16 overall. This is the first time Clark Construction participated in the program.

For the seventh consecutive year, **Cinnaire** has been named one of *Crain’s Detroit Business Cool Places to Work in Michigan*. Michigan offices in Lansing, Detroit, and Grand Rapids, Cinnaire is ranked No. 82 out of 100 organizations on the 2020 Cool Places list.

MICHIGAN PREMIER EVENTS
Corporate Event Management Company

Level Up Your Virtual Fundraiser, Conference, Webinar & Events.

Let us manage & LIVE stream your company events!
Delivering high quality event solutions.

CONTACT US TODAY!
LANSING | DETROIT | GRAND RAPIDS
www.MichiganPremierEvents.com
Email: info@MichiganPremierEvents.com
124 West Allegan St. Ste 1410 Lansing, MI 48933

PROMOTIONS



Hewitt



Suchan

Clark Construction Company announces two strategic promotions to its executive leadership team. **Laurelyn Hewitt, SPHR, SHRM-SCP** is promoted to the role of vice president of human resources. Hewitt holds a Master of Business Administration from Walsh College and a Bachelor of Science in Construction Management from Lawrence Technological University. **Janice Suchan, AIA, NCARB, LEED AP**, is promoted to vice president of marketing and business development. Suchan holds a Bachelor of Architecture from the University of Detroit Mercy, and continues to serve on their advisory board.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS & EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE UPDATES



Hallan



Herbert



Metcalf



DeMuth



O'Brien

Noted business and medical leaders have been appointed to the boards of directors of various boards that govern **Sparrow**

Health System and its subsidiaries. The new SHS members are: **James P. Hallan** is past president and chief executive officer of the Michigan Retailers Association; **James Herbert** is retired chairman of the Board and former CEO of Neogen Corp; **Candace Metcalf, D.O.**, is an anesthesiologist and past medical chief of staff at Sparrow Hospital. Joining the Sparrow Hospital Board are: **Robin DeMuth, M.D.**, a family practice physician, and current medical chief of staff for Sparrow Hospital; **Corey O'Brien, D.O.**, an attending physician with Pulmonary and Critical Care Consultants. Sparrow Ionia Hospital has also named two new members: **Brandon Richmond**, technology director, Belding Area Schools and **Meg Wheeler**, an investment executive with Union Bank in Lake Odessa. **Melissa Halvorson, M.D.**, a physician with Alliance Obstetrics & Gynecology, has also joined the Sparrow Care Network Board of Directors.



Hengesbach

McLaren Greater Lansing Foundation is pleased and excited to announce the welcoming of **Susan A. Hengesbach**, one of the newest members of the 2020 Foundation Leadership Board, that took place May 2020.

COMPANY NEWS



WILX is jumping into local lifestyle programming. In October, **WILX**, Gray Television's NBC station covering the Lansing market, will launch a news and lifestyle show called **Studio 10** airing weekdays on **WILX TV-10**, as well as livestream and its OTT apps. This brand-new hour-long program is currently under development. It is expected to have segments focusing on local food, fitness, health, parenting, auto, travel, entertainment, local news and much more. The tentative launch date is Monday, Oct. 12, and the airtime will be announced soon. **WILX** is thrilled to announce the **Studio 10** team. **Sarah Swistak**, who currently anchors Fox 47 News weekdays, will be producing and anchoring the show; and joining the **WILX** team as co-host of **Studio 10** is longtime 100.7 WITL radio personality, **Stephanie McCoy**.



Dawson

LAFCU has introduced **LAFCU Investment Services** to provide access to comprehensive investment services. Investment options include stocks, bonds, mutual funds, annuities, retirement and college savings plans, and insurance products such as life and long-term care.

Financial planning and investment products are provided through a partnership with **LPL Financial**. **LPL** advisor **Russell V. Dawson, MBA**, is available to provide counsel now and work from **LAFCU's DeWitt** branch.

CASE Credit Union will utilize a grant received from the Michigan Credit Union Foundation to conduct a series of meal giveaways to demonstrate their support and appreciation for members who are local educators and school employees. **CASE Credit Union** members who are school employees will be automatically entered into a drawing to receive a gift card to a local member food establishment. A total of twenty gift cards will be distributed. Each gift card will be purchased from a food establishment that is also a

member of **CASE Credit Union**. It will help provide a boost to struggling small businesses throughout the Greater Lansing region.



Located at the corner of E. Lenawee Street and S. Grand Ave. in downtown Lansing, the former **Lansing State Journal** building is a landmark redevelopment property. In 2016 the **Lansing State Journal** relocated to the **Knapp's Centre** owned and managed by **The Eyde Company** who purchased 120 E. Lenawee Street the year prior. The **Eyde Company** recently hired **NAI Mid-Michigan's Frank Woronoff** and **Ryan Shapiro** to list the building for sale focused on redevelopment opportunities.



Spinning Babies®, a labor positioning program, can help moms in labor avoid a C-section. Midwife **Gail Tully (CPM)** created the **Spinning Babies®** approach and has worked with labor and delivery nurses at **McLaren Greater Lansing** on how labor positioning can make all the difference in a mom's birth experience. In the first quarter of 2018, 35% of first-time moms who delivered at **McLaren Greater Lansing** who were full-term with baby head down had a primary c-section. In the first quarter of 2020, that rate dropped to 19%. Wireless monitors are one of the tools the nurses at **McLaren Greater Lansing** use to allow moms to move about freely while still being able to monitor baby. They also have birthing beds, balls, bars, and other tools used to help with different positions during labor.

MSU Federal Credit Union (MSUFCU) began issuing all its Visa debit and credit cards with contactless technology for **Tap to Pay** use, a faster, easier, and more secure way to pay, on July 1. **Tap to Pay** uses a technology called near field communication (NFC). Each card has a contactless NFC chip and radio frequency antenna. To use **Tap to Pay**, simply wave the card one to two inches over the terminal, and a one-time code is transmitted to complete the transaction. The code is sent with payment information that does not expose actual account details, so consumers don't have to worry about account information being misused or stolen.



Despite a quiet construction site in recent months, work is expected to resume on the proposed Village of Okemos project, located on the northwest and southwest corners of Hamilton and Okemos Roads in Okemos. Meridian Township, the State of Michigan, the project owner WestPac Communities, and **True North Development** are working together to resume work on the project and extend Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Eagle funding for asbestos abatement and demolition work, originally slated for spring 2020. In an effort to secure additional funds, the development team plans to submit a request to Meridian Township for use of the Meridian Redevelopment Fund to cover a portion of the asbestos abatement and demolition costs on all buildings within the two-block site. If the capital raise is successful and the redevelopment funding is secured, the development team aims to begin the work in October and complete the asbestos abatement and demolition by Dec. 15.



A local businessman who was diagnosed with stage 4 non-Hodgkin lymphoma and his wife have committed \$100,000 to the **Sparrow Herbert-Herman Cancer Center** in honor of the incredible care he received there. **Tim and Debby Hanna** of DeWitt say the Cancer Center, and specifically his oncologist, **Muhammad Hamdan, M.D.**, were crucial to his surviving the diagnosis. The Hannas have committed the donation to the Cancer Center's precision medicine program in honor of Dr. Hamdan. Precision medicine is a personalized approach to cancer care in which treatment is based on the specific characteristics of an individual's tumor rather than a one-size-fits-all approach.

Last fall, **Mason Public Schools** created a committee consisting of teachers, students, and community members to examine the District's strengths and weaknesses when it comes to diversity and inclusion. This spring, the committee made a recommendation to the Superintendent to hire a professional consultant that would guide the direction of the team as well as support the District's Strategic



Tichenor

Plan. Through a Request for Proposals process, MPS has hired **Dr. Karlin J. Tichenor** of Karlin J & Associates, LLC to support its diversity and inclusion work. Dr. Tichenor received his Doctor of Philosophy in Human Development and Family Studies with a specialization in couple and family therapy from Michigan State University. Locally, he worked in the Lansing School District as the executive director and associate superintendent of school culture, an assistant professor at Michigan State University, and an adjunct professor at Siena Heights University.



The **MSU Federal Credit Union (MSUFCU)** Board of Directors and management are pleased to announce the Credit Union opened its 21st branch at 2313 Cedar St., Holt, Mich., on July 24. This full-service location features both drive-up video tellers and 24-hour ATMs, and an integrated branch design, which offers sit-down stations rather than a traditional teller line. The stations are staffed by employees who are universally trained to handle a wide variety of transactions, including opening new accounts and processing loan applications. The branch also has a digital station where youth members can play the MSUFCU's free gaming apps.



Left to right: Julie Metty Bennett, CEO, and Rachel Kuntzsch, president

Public Sector Consultants (PSC), a force in public policy for more than 40 years, was recently certified as a Women-Owned Small Business by the U.S. Small Business Administration. Metty Bennett, PSC CEO, has been with PSC for more than 20 years and is a leading voice in water, environmental, land-use and energy policy in Michigan and beyond. Rachel Kuntzsch, co-shareholder, and president of PSC founded and led her own public policy consultancy for 12 years before merging with PSC in 2016. Her business management experience combined with her

expertise in economic development — especially in catalyzing entrepreneurial programs and industry cluster initiatives.

Dewpoint Inc. of Lansing has donated 25 iPads to **Sparrow** for a pilot Age-Friendly initiative aimed at advancing the health of vulnerable elders in our community. The iPads will contain specialized materials and resources and will be provided to a small group of medical-surgical patients. The patients will use the iPads to respond to age-friendly questions via Sparrow's MyChart patient app aimed at improving their care. Sparrow is among the first healthcare systems in the country implementing age-friendly healthcare.

The local branch of a national lending company plans to relocate to a new office in a Lansing shopping center. Supreme Lending is moving across the street to 620 S. Creyts Road to a 1,116-square-foot office nearby Quality Dairy. The Lansing office of **Colliers International** worked with Supreme Lending on the deal, and represented the landlord, 5 M Company LLC. Supreme Lending is a respected, nationwide mortgage banker. Its loan officers have served the Lansing market for 28 years.

Sparrow Laboratories has achieved a milestone by performing more than 100,000 tests for COVID-19, becoming one of only a few hospital or private labs in Michigan to achieve that level. The huge numbers are fueled by the continued incredible popularity of the innovative Sparrow Laboratories Drive-Thru Services site at Frandor in Lansing. Sparrow has added other drive-thru sites and continues to respond to the community's needs with special testing events, such as the recent one at Union Missionary Baptist Church in Lansing and on Aug. 12 in Saranac.

Michigan State University's Michigan Political Leadership Program is again breaking new ground. For the first time, they are hosting their annual fundraiser virtually. The 2020 MPLP fundraiser is set for Thursday, Oct. 1 online over Zoom. It starts at 6:30 p.m., The featured speaker will be Larry Sabato, founder of the University of Virginia Center for Politics.

During Grand Ledge Public Schools' annual Comet Camp, the **Eaton Regional Education Service Agency (RESA) Fab Lab** made its fall debut. The Fab Lab is a mobile pathway trailer featuring a 3D printer, a virtual welder, a CNC machine, and a drill press. The goal of the Fab Lab is to expose young students to career opportunities, programming, and resources available to them at the Eaton RESA Career Preparation Center. The Fab Lab works by bringing learning experiences in manufacturing and technical equipment to students in grades 4-9, making it easy for students to explore manufacturing as a potential career. This year's Comet Camp was purposefully smaller in size due to safety requirements, and the Fab Lab will use extra cleaning protocols before each presentation.

Leadership Lansing Application Deadline is September 16

LEADERS IN THE LANSING AREA interested in being part of this year's Leadership Lansing cohort have until September 16 to submit their application. In its sixth year, Leadership Lansing is a talent initiative of the Lansing Regional Chamber of Commerce. More than 200 outstanding leaders in the region have completed the program over the past five years.



This year's Leadership Lansing cohort will get underway on Tuesday, Oct. 6 and runs through May 11, 2021. Over eight months, participants will engage in four, half-day virtual workshops and four, full-day in-person workshops, which will expose participants to key institutions, industry sectors, and business leaders that are the Lansing region's fabric. Workshop themes are centered on levels of leadership influence, education, healthcare, government, economic development, engagement, and quality of life and creating a vision for the region's future. Participants will also be trained on specific leadership skills at each workshop.

Leadership Lansing seeks established and emerging leaders who can make a positive impact in the community. Candidates should have demonstrated past community commitment or a strong desire to become involved. Leadership Lansing seeks a diverse representation of organizations from across the community,

including professionals from financial services, education, manufacturing, healthcare, the arts, government, and other sectors.

Employers enrolling people in the program will reap the benefits of being viewed by their talent as having a higher level of social responsibility, which will enhance talent attraction and retention. Employers will also benefit from the enhanced leadership skills participants develop during the program.

Applications for this year's Leadership Lansing cohort are available at www.lansingchamber.org/leadership-lansing/ ■

LAFCU's Patrick Spyke Named Michigan Credit Union Professional of the Year

LAFCU CEO PATRICK SPYKE has been named Credit Union Professional of the Year by the Michigan Credit Union League (MCUL).

The award recognizes an individual whose leadership and accomplishments have bettered their organization and the credit union movement statewide.

"Pat has so many great leadership qualities," said Dave Adams, president and CEO, MCUL. "But for me, the one that sets him apart is that he is mission-driven. For LAFCU, Pat and his team, they're always on a mission to impact peoples' lives. Period."

Spyke's winning nomination highlights his focus on mentoring coworkers, developing quality member services, leveraging technology for member benefit, and addressing community issues via legislative advocacy and working with local charities.



Spyke

Randy Freeman, former president of United Autos Workers Local 652 who provided a letter of recommendation for the award, said, "Pat's support of LAFCU members and our community is refreshing. He and his team stepped in in a big way with special programs for UAW members during the six-week GM strike in 2019. Pat made it clear that LAFCU was here to help. He wanted to ensure that our members could keep food on their tables and pay their rent or mortgage payments. LAFCU lives its motto of 'Your Credit Union for Life.'"

Spyke said, "Though this award recognizes 'an individual,' it is in truth recognition of many, including the amazing team at LAFCU with whom I work to benefit our members. I am truly blessed to work in an industry driven by the philosophy of 'people helping people.' I feel utterly privileged to work closely with the caring professionals at MCUL and Credit Union National Association; credit union service organizations, and credit union CEOs and leaders to help advance credit union initiatives throughout the state and nation."

Spyke serves on the executive board of Member Driven Technologies, a credit union service organization. He's also a board member for Greater Lansing Food Bank and is helping to lead its capital campaign. ■

Canceling Fall Football to Cost MSU Athletics \$80-85 Million

ACCORDING TO MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY (MSU) Athletic Director Bill Beekman, canceling the fall football season could cost Michigan State University Athletics between \$80-85 million dollars. Beekman made his remarks during an appearance at the Lansing Economic Club virtual forum on Aug. 10.



Beekman

“That’s \$80-85 million on a total budget of \$140 million,” said Beekman. “The lack of a football season is an existential moment for college athletics. It is something we are going to have to think through and figure out. The only other sport we have at Michigan State that generates revenue beyond football is men’s basketball. Football pays for everything else.”

Beekman said it is too early to predict if the drastic reduction in revenues will force MSU to eliminate any of its 25 varsity sports programs, something the university would prefer not to have to do. For now, football and at least the rest of the fall sports season have been canceled.

“Obviously, some severe cuts will be required,” said Beekman. “We do have some reserve funds that we can make available, although they only fill a portion of the budgetary hole that will be created. Cutting programs is the last resort, and I would hope not to do so.”

COVID aside, Beekman said the state of MSU athletics is solid. He highlighted three capital projects in various phases of development, including renovation of the football coaches offices at the Skandalaris football complex, which will add state-of-the-art video editing capability; a substantial addition to the south side of Munn arena, which will lead to relocating the coaches office, new weight room, film room, cold tubs, and state-of-the-art training area; and an \$800-900 thousand upgrade to the short game practice area at Forest Akers West Golf facility.

“This will likely be the most challenging year in the history of college athletics, yet the future for MSU is very bright,” said Beekman. “I can’t wait for the end of this pandemic whether a vaccine or other medicines solve it. Our coaches and student athletes are ready to hit the ground running as soon as possible.” ■

BacktoBusiness Loan

As businesses navigate their needs, MSUFCU is here to help.

5%

APR

Up to

60

months

No payments

90

days

or

12

month line of credit

Interest-Only Payments

on line of credit

Then, up to

48

month loan

Let’s get back to business, together!
msufcu.org/backtobusiness

APR is Annual Percentage Rate. APR of 5.00% as of 8/1/2020. Rate subject to change. Maximum loan amount \$40,000. The Back to Business Loan is only available to Michigan businesses. All loans are subject to credit approval. Origination and other fees may apply. Interest will continue to accrue and deferred payments will increase the total interest you will pay. Based on your specific loan, loan payments may be moved out three months, your remaining payments amount may increase, or your deferred payments including interest will be due at the current maturity date. All unpaid principal and interest will be due based on the maturing date of your loan including any applicable loan modifications.



The Stadium District
500 East Michigan Avenue, Suite 200
Lansing, MI 48912
Ph. 517.487.6340
lansingchamber.org

Change Service Requested



PRSRT STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
LANSING, MI
PERMIT NO. 689

PAYROLL & HCM

Yes, we do that!

Looking for a partner who can support you and the complexities of an active and ever changing workforce? Mercantile Bank has the tools and knowledge to help you engage with your most valuable asset, your people. Call today and find out how we can help.