

# FOCUS

THE MONTHLY BUSINESS NEWS MAGAZINE OF THE  
LANSING REGIONAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

**AUGUST 2022**



# Baryames

AN ICONIC NAME  
SERVING GREATER  
LANSING FOR 100 YEARS

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*LEAP, Inc.*

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*Lansing 5:01*

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**Jenn Sturdy** / PNC

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Leadership Circle investors 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.

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[Lansing Regional Chamber of Commerce](https://www.youtube.com/LansingRegionalChamber)

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## A Legacy of Leadership, Innovation and Success

I have written many times in this space about the history of the regional business community and how closely it is tied to the decision more than a century ago by R.E. Olds to relocate his fledgling automotive company in Lansing. Indeed, the roots of our own organization, the Lansing Regional Chamber of Commerce can be traced to that crucial decision.

The relationship between Greater Lansing and General Motors is well documented. So too has the relationship between our region, the State Capitol and Michigan State University. In recent years we have also seen the emergence of growing industries that are now transforming our regional economy, including healthcare, insurance, financial services, advanced manufacturing, technology, transportation and entrepreneurship. These industries and individuals are contributing tens of thousands of jobs, billions of dollars in investments and serve to enhance the quality of life we enjoy in this region.

As important as these legacy organizations have been to all of us in Greater Lansing, we are also greatly indebted to the hard-working small business owners that are at the heart of our communities, creating jobs for our families and neighbors, provide products and services that we have come to depend upon through the years.

This month's cover story in Focus offers a glimpse inside one of those names with which we are all familiar, the Baryames family, celebrating 100 years of service to the region. Now in its 3rd generation of family ownership, Baryames has flourished even while enduring the difficulties that all businesses face. They have adapted, changed and innovated. Though their business looks much different than it did 100 years ago, even 20 years ago, the underpinnings of hard work, innovation and quality service have endured.

The Baryames story is one that we can find throughout our region, including many other businesses that have remained through multiple generations. They are names like Granger, Martin, Dean and Kositchek's. We can also look at recent recipients of the Chamber Legacy award including Quality Dairy and A. Dean Watkins.

We cannot overstate the impact our small business community continues to have on our regional economy. They provide the vast majority of jobs in the community. We know when we support a locally owned small business in our region, 70 cents of every dollar we spend stays in this community.

It is also important to recognize that success doesn't happen in a vacuum. We all have a responsibility to contribute to the longevity of small businesses by choosing to support them. We also must develop strategies to reinvigorate and reinvest in our small business community. A perfect example is the Comprehensive Market Analysis that Downtown Lansing Inc. is leading for the downtown central business district, REO Town and Old Town. The vitality of the downtown business district is crucial to the city of Lansing and the entire region and implementing a new vision for downtown is an important step in rejuvenating the area.

On behalf of the Chamber and our region, I would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to the small businesses who through their commitment and dedication are not only growing their businesses, but also contributing to building a thriving region. ●



**TIM DAMAN**  
PRESIDENT AND CEO  
LANSING REGIONAL  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



**We cannot overstate the impact our small business community continues to have on our regional economy. They provide the vast majority of jobs in the community. We know when we support a locally owned small business in our region, 70 cents of every dollar we spend stays in this community.**

## August 2022

8/11

### ATHENA WIN: Evening of Empowerment

Thursday, Aug. 11 from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m.  
Crowne Plaza Lansing West, 925 S. Creyts Road, Lansing

Enjoy night of comradery and collaboration as we celebrate the 2021 ATHENA recipient and a special keynote speaker, Camille Schrier, who will enlighten and entertain men and women of all ages. There will be a cocktail hour for mingling, dinner with friends, and speakers who will inspire and motivate.

**Cost:** \$75 for ATHENA WIN members, and \$85 for future members.

8/16

### LANSING OPEN

Tuesday, Aug. 16 from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.  
Eagle Eye Golf & Banquet Center,  
15101 Chandler Road, Bath

As the Greater Lansing region's premier golf outing, the Lansing Open attracts hundreds of golfers each year. Played at one of the state's most pristine courses, the Lansing Open is an excellent opportunity to network with the area's top business leaders while enjoying a fun and relaxing day.

9/13

### LANSING ECONOMIC CLUB

Tuesday, Sept. 13 from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.  
Kellogg Hotel & Conference Center,  
219. S Harrison Road, East Lansing

The September Lansing Economic Club will feature a panel discussion including Claire Babineaux-Fontenot, CEO of Feeding America and Dr. Phil Knight, executive director of Food Bank Council of Michigan. The program will focus on how food insecurity impacts every business, from employees and their families, clients and potential clients, and the communities in which they operate.

**Cost:** Complimentary for Lansing Economic Club members; \$55 for LRCC members; \$75 for future LRCC members; and \$425 for a table of eight.

9/13

### September Member Mixer

Tuesday, Sept. 13 from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m.  
Greater Lansing Food Bank,  
5600 Food Court, Bath

Make a new connection at the September Member Mixer, hosted by the Greater Lansing Food Bank. You are invited to enjoy networking with other Lansing

Regional Chamber of Commerce members and complimentary food and beverages.

**Cost:** Complimentary for LRCC members.

9/15

### Chamber 360

Thursday, Sept. 15 from 8 to 10:30 a.m.  
Lansing Regional Chamber of Commerce,  
500 E. Michigan Avenue, Suite 200,  
Lansing

As a current member or a business considering joining the Lansing Regional Chamber of Commerce (LRCC), it is critically important that you understand and utilize the tools, resources and relationships available to you through your membership investment. The Chamber 360 program provides an intimate venue for you to connect with other members, provide brief remarks, meet the LRCC team and take a deeper dive into a LRCC membership. The goal of the program is to acclimate you with your investment and put together a plan of action for membership engagement and strong ROI.

**Cost:** Complimentary for LRCC members.

## 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 advise the tri-county region.

### Delta Township - Eaton County

Wednesday, Sept. 7 from 9 to 10 a.m.

### Lansing - Delhi Township

Wednesday, Sept. 14 from 9 to 10 a.m.

### East Lansing - Meridian Township

Wednesday, Sept. 21 from 9 to 10 a.m.

The LRCC hosts numerous events monthly, from Member Mixers to Lansing Economic Club programs. The events and programming provide valuable content and information and give members unique opportunities to connect and network.

The LRCC encourages members to check their email, follow LRCC social media channels, and visit the [LRCC website](#) for the most updated information on upcoming educational offerings and networking opportunities.

**Registration is available on the LRCC website.**

# Thank You Renewing Members

Active Living for All (ALFA)	High Caliber Karting & Entertainment	Personnel World - Holt
Adams Outdoor Advertising	IGT	Personnel World, Inc.
The American Legion Auxiliary Department of Michigan	Kositckek's	PK Companies
American Red Cross-Mid Michigan Chapter	Lakeside Party Store	Pratt & Whitney AutoAir, Inc.
Association for Child Development	Lang Eye Care	Principal Financial Group - Benjamin Eichler
Baker Drivetrain	Lansing Housing Commission	Reed Insurance Agency
Bornor Restoration, Inc.	Lansing Mosaic	Rieth-Riley Construction Co., Inc.
Buffalo Wild Wings	Lansing Sanitary Supply, Inc.	SM Saputo LLC
Cafecito Caliente	La-Z-Boy Furniture Gallery	Smalley Investments
Capital Area Humane Society	LocaliQ & The USA Today Network	United Way of South Central Michigan
Cedar River Insurance Agency	Lyman & Sheets Insurance Agency	Veteran Sewer and Drain Cleaning
Centennial Group	Manpower	Willows at East Lansing
CG Financial Services	MetroNet	The Willows at Okemos
Doberman Technologies, LLC	Michigan Association of School Boards	Wolverine Water Treatment Systems/ Michigan Soft Water
Eagle Eye Golf & Banquet Center	Michigan Dental Association	Woodbridge Commons Cooperative
Eaton Rapids Medical Center	Michigan Premier Events	Zeedia Media
Ellis Cleaning Company	Michigrain Distillery	
Enbridge (U.S.) Inc.	Mulder Company	
Foster Swift Collins & Smith, P.C.	Ngage Management	
GM Lansing Operations	Nuthouse Sports Grill	
Greenlee Consulting	Okemos Marathon	
H Inc.	O'Leary Paint	
Hanes & Associates, PLLC	Peak Performance Physical Therapy	
	The Peanut Shop	

## Chamber Milestones

### Lansing Entertainment & Public Facilities Authority (LEPFA)

35 Years

### Fairview Realty Co.

30 Years

### Myers Plumbing & Heating, Inc.

30 Years

### Eastwood Towne Center

20 Years

### Equanimity Wealth Management

10 Years

### ITC Holdings Corporation

10 Years

### KTM Industries, Inc.

10 Years

### Simplified Accounting & Tax Service, Inc

10 Years

### Comcast Business

5 Years

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

## Info Hub

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](https://www.lansingchamber.org)

and enter your username and password. If you have not yet signed into the site, please follow the simple password reset instructions.

**Call (517) 487-6340  
with any questions.**

# Welcome New Members

**Advantage Group**

(517) 391-2126  
[www.advantagegroupga.com](http://www.advantagegroupga.com)  
 8143 S Airport Road  
 DeWitt, MI 48820

**AllState**

(517) 275-9684  
[www.allstate.com/vsarda](http://www.allstate.com/vsarda)  
 2175 Jolly Road, Suite 2  
 Okemos, MI 48864

**Citinet Trading International Corporation**

(626) 236-7543  
 5200 S. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.  
 Lansing, MI 48911

**Farmers Insurance Group**

(517) 512-3978  
 3204 Trillium Drive  
 Lansing, MI 48906

**HealthBridge**

(616) 717-2077  
[www.myhealthbridge.com](http://www.myhealthbridge.com)  
 3200 Broadmoor Ave. SE  
 Grand Rapids, MI 49512

**Holy Cross Services/  
 New Hope Center**

(517) 484-4414  
[www.holycrossservices.org](http://www.holycrossservices.org)  
 430 North Larch St.  
 Lansing, MI 48912

**Hoover Digital**

(480) 435-4802  
[www.hooverdigital.com](http://www.hooverdigital.com)  
 595 Tradewinds Drive  
 Dunedin, FL 34698

**Mental Health Association in Michigan**

(517) 898-3907  
[www.mha-mi.com](http://www.mha-mi.com)  
 P.O. Box 11118  
 Lansing, MI 48901

**Michigan Humanities**

(517) 372-7770  
[www.michiganhumanities.org](http://www.michiganhumanities.org)  
 2364 Woodlake Drive, Suite 100  
 Okemos, MI 48864

**NovaCare Rehabilitation**

(517) 272-5133  
[www.novacare.com](http://www.novacare.com)  
 3370 E. Jolly Road, Suite B  
 Lansing, MI 48910

**Precision Garage Door of Mid Michigan**

(517) 225-0228  
[www.precisiondoormi.com/mid](http://www.precisiondoormi.com/mid)  
 6250 S Cedar St., Suite #1B  
 Lansing, MI 48911

**Something Fabulous**

(703) 586-5645  
[www.somethingfab.com](http://www.somethingfab.com)  
 Lake Orion, MI 48362

**The Venue by Eleven 11 Events**

(517) 886-0601  
[www.venue1111.com](http://www.venue1111.com)  
 5660 W. Saginaw Hwy.  
 Lansing, MI 48917

**White House Optique**

(734) 740-2104  
[www.whitehouseoptique.com](http://www.whitehouseoptique.com)  
 6604 W Saginaw Hwy.  
 Lansing, MI 48917

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## GreenStone Farm Credit Services Appoints Travis Jones as President and CEO

**A**fter a nationwide search, GreenStone Farm Credit Services' Board of Directors has named Travis Jones as its next President and Chief Executive Officer. Jones, who currently serves as the cooperative's Executive Vice President & Chief Financial Officer, assumed the chief leadership role on August 1, 2022 following Dave Armstrong's retirement. In this new role, Jones will build upon the strong foundation Armstrong established in his 14 years as CEO of the association.



Jones

GreenStone Farm Credit Services understands agricultural finance in ways unmatched by any other financial entities. With Jones' nearly 15-year history with GreenStone, he's dedicated to supporting the rural and agricultural communities in Michigan and northeast Wisconsin – regardless of market or industry fluctuations – with a primary mission to help them grow, thrive and succeed.

"We unanimously believe Travis Jones is the right person to drive GreenStone's mission and values forward to best serve our members," said Board Chairman Ed Reed. "His deep understanding of our Core Four Values is shown through his dedication to always put the customer first, deliver quality over quantity, roll up his sleeves to get the work done, and most importantly, always doing the right thing."

Jones has been chosen to succeed Dave Armstrong who, with a 41-year dedicated career serving the Farm Credit System, has led as President and CEO of GreenStone for

the last 14 of those years. Armstrong retired July 31, 2022. His inspiring leadership leaves the cooperative in strong, stable hands.

With a managed and steady approach Jones' experience will help ensure an ongoing strong financial foundation for GreenStone customers to build and grow upon. Jones joined the GreenStone cooperative in September 2007 as CFO. Since that time, he has demonstrated his progressive strategic and operational leadership impacting long range organizational and capital planning.

Like many GreenStone team members, Jones grew up on a small farm in Chapin, Michigan and now lives in Owosso with his wife Sue, where they together raised three children. Travis believes it is important to make a difference in the communities where we live and serve. He leads by example, leveraging his financial expertise on the board of the Michigan Finance Authority to help provide impactful, affordable loans for cities, colleges, and public schools, plus serves on the Michigan FFA Association board providing support to the year-round agriscience curriculum and youth development activities.

"Every day is an honor to work alongside our 600+ talented and committed teammates to serve our members. We've built an inclusive, customer first culture under Dave's leadership and I'm truly humbled with the opportunity to continue that focus as the next CEO of GreenStone and build upon the successes Dave established," said Travis Jones. "With our shared strategic vision for the cooperative, I look forward to paving the path forward to continued success and prosperity for our team and customers." ●

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## Spartan Coach Takes Delivery on New GMC Hummer EV Pickup

**W**hen MSU Head Football Coach Mel Tucker arrives at Spartan Stadium, he is fully charged in a brand new GMC electric vehicle, after taking delivery on one of the first Hummer EV Edition 1 pickups, on Thursday, June 23 at Crippen Buick GMC in Lansing.

Coach Tucker was the first customer in Lansing to put a Hummer EV Edition 1 Pickup on the road and it will reflect at least one Spartan color. More than 75,000 Hummer EV pickups and SUVs have been reserved by customers and are in production at GM's Factory Zero Assembly Center in Detroit-Hamtramck. The GMC Hummer EV Pickup boasts 1,000 horsepower, 11,500 lb.-ft. of torque and 0-60 mph time of approximately 3 seconds, all in an off-road capable and zero-tailpipe emissions package.

"As Coach Tucker looks forward to another great season," says Jeff Crippen, Crippen president, "we know he'll enjoy his daily commute to Spartan Stadium in one of the newest GMC electric vehicles, sized for comfort and command of the roads. It's a pivotal time in the industry and as a GMC dealer for nearly half a century, we're proud to be among the world's first to help lead GMC's electric revolution."

The Hummer EV is one of the first all-electric super trucks, designed with on-road performance and real off-road capabilities. The Hummer EV was revealed in October 2020 with the unveiling of the GMC Hummer pickup (SUT), followed by the GMC Hummer SUV revealed in April 2021.

"We must relentlessly attack the path to success and always innovate and adapt," Tucker said. "GMC has done that with their new Hummer EV. This vehicle has great size and powerful new features that will change the game on and off the road. I look forward to attacking that road."

In addition to GMC vehicles, Crippen sells Buicks, Mazdas and Volvos, as well as a large inventory of used cars. The Crippen dealership is a second-generation family business nearing 50 years in business.

Visit [crippencars.com](http://crippencars.com) for more information ●



## Chamber Events

*Your Connection to Professional Development and Networking Success*

From professional development to networking, the Lansing Regional Chamber of Commerce hosts events to fit every need.

A full list of events is located on the Chamber Calendar on the LRCC website.





## Lansing Company Reports Multi-Machine Order from EV OEM



Industrial Metal Products Corporation (IMPCO) in Lansing, received orders for five microfinishing systems to be delivered to electric vehicle OEM plants in Mexico and the United States. The order total is \$3.5 million. Each robot-loaded system is designed to microfinish the bearing diameter on a family of 300-mm rotor shafts used in the drivetrain of electric vehicles.

“Our process is a highly refined process that permits essential rotating components to operate efficiently with minimum frictional loss through noise and vibration for extended duty cycles,” said Mark Hendel, IMPCO Global Sales Director. The IMPCO Standard 540 Series Microfinishing Systems will perfect surface finish, roundness, and straightness of the bearing journals on the shafts at production rates greater than 100 parts an hour. Machine flexibility is key in today's market, so having the ability to change over between part types in less than 10 minutes allows for future product design flexibility.

In operation, IMPCO Microfinishing removes the microscopic amorphous surface material left from the grinding of a dimensionally finished shaft-type part, such as a crankshaft, camshaft, or pump shaft, to permit a highly precise fit to a mating part. The process controls surface finish, roundness, and straightness to microns — mere millionths of an inch — tolerances unattainable with grinding.

The company employs more than 50 people in Michigan who design and build special automated machines that polish camshaft, crankshaft, and other precision load bearing journals for drivetrain manufacturers worldwide. The IMPCO Microfinishing

process helps its users, including all major automotive OEM, deliver smoother operating, longer lasting, and more efficient drivetrains.

“Today we are positioned at the forefront of microfinishing technology and have become the global reference for microfinishing,” said Mr. Hendel. “This all started 55 years ago when IMPCO designed, built, and delivered the world’s first automated microfinishing machine in response to a request from Chrysler Corporation for polishing its new V-8 engine crankshaft. Since then, IMPCO has developed strong relationships with licensees and agents worldwide.”

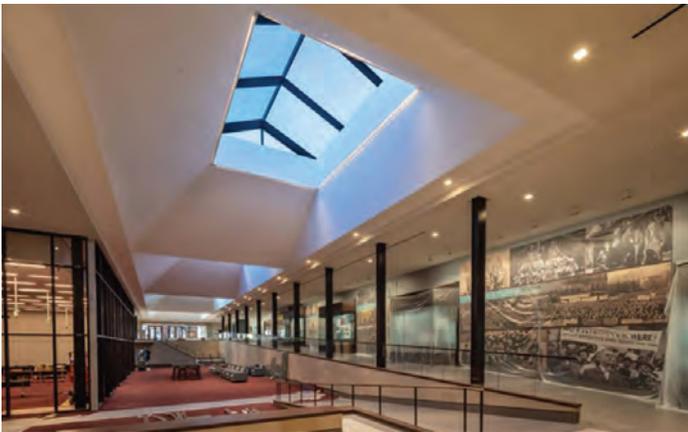
IMPCO is dedicated to helping manufacturers achieve superior part functioning characteristics with microfinishing technology that has proved itself in automotive, compressor, transmission, agricultural, construction and other plants that make precision rotating, load-bearing components around the world. Since 1937, IMPCO machines and systems have improved the surface finish, geometry and size tolerances of cylindrical parts of many materials to within microns (millionths of an inch) consistently. ●

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## Heritage Hall Visitors Center Opens in Downtown Lansing

### NEW WELCOME CENTER AT STATE CAPITOL BUILDING COULD ATTRACT AN ADDITIONAL 100,000 TOURISTS ANNUALLY TO DOWNTOWN LANSING

**A** new \$40 million underground welcome center has opened on the north side of the State Capitol. Heritage Hall began giving its first tours on July 5, 2022. All State Capitol tours will begin in the newly constructed facility.

Heritage Hall features a 40,000-square foot visitor center. The Center includes meeting spaces that can be separated into smaller, soundproofed rooms in addition to providing space for events, catering, and bus drop-offs. The hall can host educational exhibits, will provide a safe bus stop for school field trips, space for receptions, and other catered events. Heritage Hall is connected to the Capitol building and lit partially by

three sun skylights that provide an impressive view of the Capitol dome.

“Visitors will see a building that is a mixture of today and yesterday,” said Rob Blackshaw, executive director of the Michigan State Capitol Commission. “There are historical displays, meeting rooms and greatly increased security for the Capitol. It is a beautiful building that maintains the historical perspective of the Capitol building, but also has its unique modern features.”

The State Capitol building draws 250,000 visitors per year. Heritage Hall could attract as many as 100,000 additional visitors per year. ●

# NAACP, CAMW! and LRCC Support Lansing Juneteenth Jobs and Community Resource Fair

As part of the 2022 Lansing Juneteenth Freedom Festival, the NAACP-Lansing and the Lansing Juneteenth Committee sponsored a Jobs and Community Resource Fair. The event held on Saturday, June 18 at St. Joseph Park in Lansing was also proudly supported by Capital Area Michigan Works! and the Lansing Regional Chamber of Commerce.

**JUNETEENTH**  
Celebration Job Fair

🕒 Saturday, June 18, 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.

📍 St. Joe Park  
2125 W. Hillsdale St.  
Lansing, MI 48915

**Sponsored by:**

Lansing NAACP    LANSING REGIONAL CHAMBER    Capital Area MICHIGAN WORKS!

More than 30 employers and several community resource providers representing a diverse cross-section of jobs met with job seekers during the jobs fair.

“The Lansing Juneteenth Committee is all about redefining and transforming ourselves for the betterment of the community. We felt that offering an opportunity for employers, businesses and individuals to come together and connect in a relaxed and positive setting was a win-win for all involved,” said Marilyn Rogers, chairperson, Lansing Juneteenth Committee. “Our event allowed people to network with local organizations and gain knowledge of available positions that they may have interests in and support their financial goals. We were successful in bringing people, businesses and organizations together for a common cause and community need. As a result, we are building strong loving communities and look forward to having this activity be a part of next year’s annual Lansing Juneteenth Celebration!”

“The fair not only provided opportunities to job seekers in the Lansing Area, but it also established new connections in the Black community,” said Dallas Copedge, president, NAACP Lansing. “Individuals that participated in the fair met with employers that some never would have considered approaching. Most



Rogers



Copedge



Sand

employers were able to connect with able to reach two or more possible workers.”

“The fair not only introduced job seekers to Lansing’s most highly-respected employers, but it allowed them the opportunity to discuss diverse issues and cultural challenges in the workplace on a more intimate level,” says Teri Sand, Business Services Team Manager at CAMW!.

The mission of the Lansing Juneteenth Committee is to commemorate the ending of slavery in the United States by celebrating the joys of liberty, educating the community about our heritage, and by promoting positive cultural interaction. Learn more about the Lansing Juneteenth Committee at [www.lansingjuneteenthcelebration.org](http://www.lansingjuneteenthcelebration.org). ●

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MEET LIKE A LOCAL

The GLCVB's role is to market the Capital Region as a travel destination and our vision is to inspire visitors and residents alike to love Lansing as much as we do. We understand what makes this community great. Work with us to host your next meeting or event and together we can grow the local economy while showcasing our hometown pride. Contact us today!

LANSING.org  
 (517) 487-0077  
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Baryames

Nate Lentz/Tandem Studios/FirstLast Media

**F**or anyone who has been in the Greater Lansing region for a period of time, the name Baryames strikes a familiar chord. The Baryames family has been serving the region through its core businesses since 1922. Today the company is led by third-generation owners Art Baryames, who oversees Baryames Cleaners and sister Katina Baryames, owner of Baryames Tuxedo and Suit.

“I think it would mean a lot to our father and grandfather that the name is still on the building along with a great reputation,” said Katina Baryames.

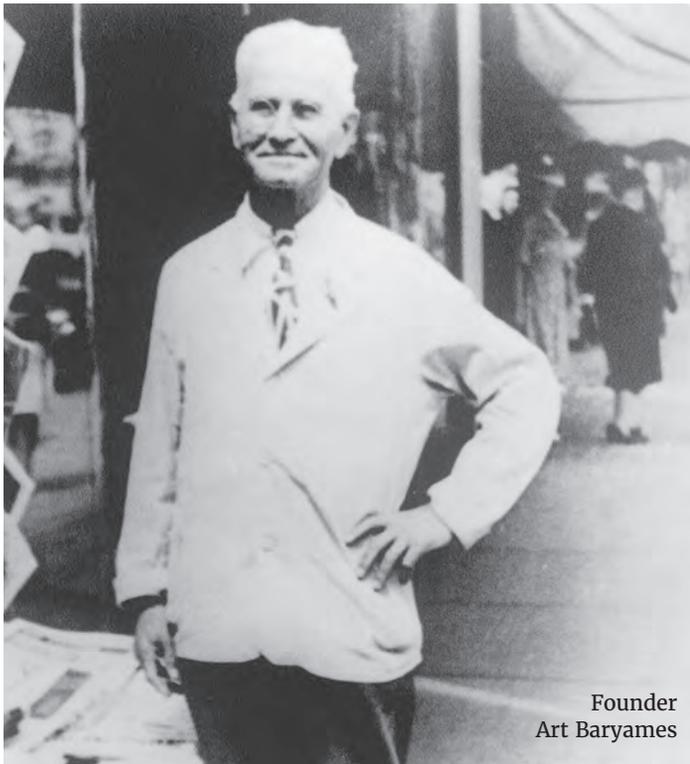
“Lansing is the one town where you can go to make a reservation someplace and we don’t have to spell the last name,” jokes Art Baryames. “People we meet from around the country with a connection to Lansing often tell us they have been a customer of ours.”

## A HISTORY ROOTED IN FAMILY AND HARD WORK

The original Art Baryames, a Greek immigrant from a village near Sparta, founded Baryames Cleaners in 1922 as a newspaper, shoe shine, hat-cleaning stand. The business was located in Downtown Lansing on Washington Avenue near the corner of Washtenaw. In the 1930s, garment pressing was added so a gentleman could come in and get his shoes shined, hat cleaned and suit pressed, all at the same time. The company even provided curbside delivery of newspapers.

“We did curbside service before it was popular, pre-Covid,” said Katina Baryames with a laugh.

There were eight children in the Baryames family and all of them worked before and after school to help support the business.



Founder  
Art Baryames

“That was necessary to put food on the table back then,” says Art Baryames.

The company grew rapidly in the '50s, '60s and '70s under the leadership of Art's son, Chuck Baryames by emphasizing exceptional quality and service.

Both Art and Katina learned their work ethic from their parents, starting in the business at a young age. Art started at the dry cleaners at age 9, left after college for a commercial real estate career in Denver, only to return in 1982 when his father decided to sell the dry cleaning business.

“I did what not many do, moving from Denver to Lansing, but it was a good business opportunity and also an opportunity to be with family again,” said Art Baryames.

Katina started working in the cleaners at age 11 but always knew she wanted to be involved in the tuxedo shop, because that's where all the fashions were and seemed to be more fun. She started working at the tuxedo store during college. When her father offered to sell the tuxedo shop to her in 1982, she questioned whether she could do it. Her father insisted that she was ready.



Chuck  
Baryames



Baryames  
Circa 1960

“He had all the faith in me,” said Katina. “I didn't plan on staying in Lansing, but it was a great opportunity and I am glad I took it.”

## ADAPTING THROUGH THE YEARS

The first 20 years after Art took over the dry cleaning business were boom times in the industry. Women were fully engaged in the workforce. The fashions changed as well. Silk became very popular as did linens and rayons. Shortly after the turn of the century the casual wear boom meant that people were dressing up less, which impacted the entire industry.

“When Covid hit, that was another blow, because now people weren't even going to work,” said Art. “Even returning to work, things are more casual as employers are relaxing standards in response to the desires of their workforce.”

Baryames Cleaners responded to the changes in the marketplace on several fronts. The company launched a wash and wear service, basically doing people's laundry. The move to home pick-up and delivery has been a necessary extension of the company's 12 retail locations.

“These were things that 15 years ago I said I was never going to do,” said Art Baryames. “As times changed, I realized we probably better do that.”

Baryames Cleaners also added drive-thru service at its stores and are now adding drop boxes which are open 24-7. The company has also implemented a barcode system which is used to track every item—nothing gets lost. Art predicts the next step will be placing kiosks in their stores.

“You will be able to come into one of our stores and they will be open 24-7,” said Art. “If the store is unattended, you will use the kiosk and drop box.”

Technology has brought some of the biggest changes

## BARYAMES: AN ICONIC NAME SERVING GREATER LANSING FOR 100 YEARS



Nate Lentz/Tandem Studios/FirstLast Media

the past 40 years at Baryames Tuxedo and Suit. There were no computers in place when Katina started in 1982.

**"WE ARE FORTUNATE TO HAVE HAD GOOD HEALTH, GOOD PEOPLE AND GOOD CUSTOMERS. WE HAVE BEEN BLESSED."**

"They love what they do and we really needed them during what was a very difficult time in our business," said Katina.

"There was no system to do a reservation via computer," said Katina. "We had a large log book where we had to write the customer's reservation information. It was very time consuming and not particularly accurate."

Now, computers handle all of that including logging the customer's measurements. They can track history and information about what is renting. Technology has also dramatically improved their customer communication system. Rather than a phone call, it is a text or e-mail. They provide regular updates on the status of every order.

"It takes the worry factor out because they may have placed the order six months ago," said Katina. "It provides an assurance their order is on track."

The other big change in the tuxedo-suit business has been the advent of the designer labels which are popular with many customers. About 15 years ago, Baryames Tuxedo and Suit added a line of suits for sale or rent which are an attractive option for weddings held in rustic settings and venues.

### KEYS TO SUCCESS

Art and Katina give much credit to their father for instilling a strong work ethic and mentoring them in both life and business skills. Though Chuck Baryames passed away in 2012, his legacy and memory still hold great influence.

"He taught me so much. He mentored me. I feel like he still walks with me," said Katina. "Those lessons are with me every day."

Fresh products and new styles have also been trademarks that have helped her company be successful. Both Katina and Art credit their strong staff for a big part of their success. Katina was particularly grateful that her entire team returned to work after the Covid shutdown.

Being able to adapt and willing to change with the times has also been a trademark of the Baryames success story.

"Making those moves to invest in technology and equipment, different methods and ways of doing things," said Art. "It is critical. Because if you don't, you fall behind."

Both Baryames businesses have taken advantage of associating with a network of similar businesses. Baryames Tuxedo and Suit belongs to a group called SIFA, which is a network of independent operators who provide a fitting network for people around the country. Being able to do those fittings for people from outside the Lansing area allows Baryames to compete with large national companies.

Baryames Cleaners is part of a group called the National Roundtable, which consists of 17 dry cleaners who share best practices, innovations and different approaches to common problems.

### 100 YEARS AND COUNTING

If there is a club for businesses that make it to the century mark, membership would be very exclusive. For 100 years, loyal customers have always been a trademark of the Baryames business for which Art and Katina are very thankful.

"Our customers have been very loyal to Baryames," said Katina. "They like to support local businesses. If there is a choice, they will go to the local person. It makes you feel good, like we are doing something right."

"We are fortunate to have had good health, good people and good customers," said Art. "We have been blessed."

For more information about Baryames Cleaners, visit [www.baryamescleaners.com](http://www.baryamescleaners.com). For Baryames Tuxedo and Suit, visit [www.baryames.com](http://www.baryames.com). ●



**EmPOWER Lansing** celebrated their four-year anniversary with a new expansion! The new expansion includes 24/7 access and plenty of room to work out with brand new weight equipment. EmPOWER Lansing is located at 2010 E. Michigan Ave., Suite 107, Lansing.



**Therapy Today**, a unique and innovative woman-owned small business, celebrated its 10-year anniversary on July 1st with a tree-planting ceremony, donating 10 fruit trees to Hawk Nest Park in East Lansing. Starting with only one therapist in 2012, Therapy Today now employs 50 therapists providing high quality mental health care to hundreds of people each week. Therapy Today is expanding into other states and plans to celebrate their 20-year anniversary in 2032 by operating in all 50 states.



July 5, 2022 was exactly 50 years to the day that **Elderly Instruments** opened their doors in the Old Town community. To celebrate this incredible milestone, Elderly Instruments invited the community for an all-day summer Block Party. The Elderly team was so proud to provide two stages with 11 hours of music, special in-store deals, food trucks and lots of other business vendors and kids activities. Elderly Instruments was started by Stan Werbin and the tradition continues as his daughter Lillian steps into a larger leadership role.



**Capitol National Bank** is kicking off their 40th anniversary celebration with the grand opening of a new branch in Okemos, located at 2285 W. Grand River Ave., Okemos. Capitol National Bank has been the chosen community bank by offering customer solutions that result in long-term relationships and enhanced value. Guests of the Okemos branch will enjoy the convenience of free parking, drive-thru service, ATM and night deposit.



It was a beautiful night for the July Member Mixer! Hosted by **Cleats Bar & Grill**, members enjoyed making new connections on the large outdoor patio. Thank you to everyone who joined the Chamber. It was wonderful to see many members of Greater Lansing's business community in attendance!



**PROJECT PROFILES**  
M-43 Meridian Township

Gov. Gretchen Whitmer's Rebuilding Michigan program invests in state highways and bridges critical to the state's economy.

- Rebuilding 3.3 miles from Park Lake Road to Oak Pointe Court
- \$12 million investment - Supports 153 jobs
- April 2022 - June 2023
- Important route for pedestrian, commuter and commercial traffic



**PROJECT PROFILES**  
I-496 Ingham County

Gov. Gretchen Whitmer's Rebuilding Michigan program invests in state highways and bridges critical to the state's economy.

- Rebuilding 2 miles from Lansing Road to the Grand River
- \$80 million investment - 1,016 jobs supported
- Spring 2021 - Fall 2023
- Important route at the state capital for commuter, commercial and tourism traffic



**PROJECT PROFILES**  
US-127 Ingham County

Gov. Gretchen Whitmer's Rebuilding Michigan program invests in state highways and bridges critical to the state's economy.

- Rebuilding 12 miles from the Jackson County line to M-36 (Cedar Street)
- \$62 million investment - Supports 800 jobs
- March 2022 - Fall 2025
- Important route for commuter, commercial, and tourism traffic



**PROJECT PROFILES**  
I-69 Clinton and Eaton Counties

Gov. Gretchen Whitmer's Rebuilding Michigan program invests in state highways and bridges critical to the state's economy.

- Rebuilding 5 miles between I-96 and Airport Road
- \$73 million investment - 927 jobs supported
- April 2021 - November 2022
- Important route for commuter, commercial, and tourism traffic

## Rebuilding Michigan Infrastructure Projects

One of the areas the Chamber focuses on is advocating at the local, state, and federal level of governments to prioritize investing in our regional infrastructure. The Chamber was pleased to see several major infrastructure projects announced as part of Gov. Whitmer's Rebuilding Michigan, including several in the Greater Lansing region. Here are a few current projects highlighted from the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT).

- M-43 Meridian Township
- I-496 Ingham County
- US-127 Ingham County
- I-69 Calhoun and Eaton Counties
- I-69 Clinton and Eaton Counties



**PROJECT PROFILES**  
I-69 Calhoun/Eaton Counties

Gov. Gretchen Whitmer's Rebuilding Michigan program invests in state highways and bridges critical to the state's economy.

- Rebuilding 25 miles of I-69 between Marshall and Charlotte
- \$210 million investment - Supports 2,667 jobs
- September 2020 - November 2023
- Important route for commuter, commercial, and tourism traffic



# State Budget Approved, \$7B Still in Play

The State Legislature approved the 2022-23 budget (\$76 billion overall budget, which includes \$19.6 billion in School Aid Fund [Senate Bill 845] and \$15.3 billion in General Fund [House Bill 5783]), however; there is still \$7 billion left for the Governor and Legislature to decide on how best to spend those dollars. The \$7 billion consists of one-time surplus dollars and ongoing funding.



Governor and State Legislature on advocating for our regional priorities in the coming months.

- **Downtown Lansing, Inc.** - \$5 million (LRCC | CAPCOG Priority Request)
- **Potter Park Zoo** - \$2 million (LRCC | CAPCOG Priority Request)
- **Michigan Reconnect & Going PRO** - \$110 million (LRCC Priority Request – Workforce Development)
- **Statewide Pre-Apprenticeship Program** - \$10 million (LRCC Priority Request – Workforce Development)
- **New Behavioral Health Center at former McLaren Greenlawn Hospital** - \$5 million (LRCC priority request – healthcare accessibility and affordability)
- **Revenue Sharing for Local Governments** – 6% increase
- **Grants for Local Units of Government to Fund Retirement Systems** - \$750 million
- **MSU AgBioResearch Program** - \$2.6 million increase
- **MSU Extension Program** - \$1.2 million increase ●

Here are a few wins for the Chamber’s priority requests as well as for our region overall. The Chamber along with our partners at the Capital Council of Governments (CAPCOG) will continue to work with the

## THE DEAN DIFFERENCE

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# DEAN

TRANSPORTATION

## LRCC Welcomes Chandler Harris as Advocacy Intern

The Lansing Regional Chamber of Commerce (LRCC) is pleased to welcome Chandler Harris, who has been an intern in the LRCC public affairs department since January. Chandler is originally from Dallas, Texas, and is hoping to pursue a law degree focusing on environmental policy transaction. This would include representing companies and individuals looking for a more environment-friendly practice for their businesses while also creating a positive net gain. He also enjoys travel, wanting to visit Europe in hopes of exploring areas such as cuisine and government relations. He attends Michigan State University, where he maintains a lofty 3.57 GPA in his major area of political science. He is minoring in law and public policy.



Harris

FOCUS Magazine had the opportunity to speak with Chandler and learn more about his journey.

### **FOCUS: Tell us about your journey from Dallas to Michigan State University.**

**Chandler:** I knew I wanted to go out of state and Michigan State was one of several universities on my list. I didn't know much about MSU at the time. Meanwhile, my grandmother had purchased an MSU shirt at a yard sale and I decided to wear it to school. As I was walking down the hall, I heard one of the school librarians yelling out to me something about MSU. She took me into her office and told me she was the mother of MSU basketball player Matt McQuaid, who had graduated from the same high school as me. I started watching MSU play basketball and began to think about how I would enjoy life on the campus. I applied to several schools and MSU was one of the first to accept me and offered the most scholarship support. All of that convinced me to come to Michigan State, which was a great decision.

### **FOCUS: How did you become interested in political science and advocacy?**

**Chandler:** I was initially a business major but wasn't really enjoying the courses. During the pandemic, I began reading many news articles about the state of our country. I found myself excited to get up in the morning to read more. I also watched the impeachment hearings and Supreme Court nominations hearings on TV, which led to the realization that switching majors was a good idea.

### **FOCUS: What attracted you to the internship with LRCC?**

**Chandler:** I was enrolled in the Michigan Government Semester Program, which had classes at the Capitol and

downtown Lansing at a lobbying firm. We had many speakers that really provided insight into state and local government. My professor was aware that I was a former business major and suggested the Lansing Regional Chamber when I was exploring internship possibilities. I had an interview with Steve Japinga and was fortunate to receive the internship. I have been here since January and can honestly say this has been my best internship. It has provided me with the resources I need to help me get to the next level.

### **FOCUS: You are interested in obtaining a law degree with an emphasis in environmental policy. What are your career aspirations?**

**Chandler:** In the early stages of my career, I would like to be involved in developing environmental policy, particularly renewables. I am a supporter of renewable energy. However, I also realize that converting to renewables is not as easy as most people think. I want to be a part of this important transition in the next several years. Later on, I could see myself joining in on the government side, perhaps working at a place like the Environmental Protection Agency and being involved on the regulatory side. ●

## Lansing Marketplace: Get Your Business Noticed

The **Lansing Marketplace** is a directory for Lansing Regional Chamber of Commerce members and one of the top three most visited pages annually on the Lansing Regional Chamber website.

In a nutshell, the Lansing Marketplace is a one-stop shop that allows you to connect with and be seen by other Lansing Regional Chamber members and potential new customers in Mid-Michigan.

An Enhanced Listing in the Lansing Marketplace increases your business's ability to be seen by potential new customers and expands your business search engine optimization. It ranks your business higher in the category search. It also allows you the freedom to add pertinent information to your listing, such as videos, photos, links to social media, and information regarding your company.

Interested in getting started? Contact Michelle Rahl, vice president, member engagement, LRCC, at [mrahl@lansingchamber.org](mailto:mrahl@lansingchamber.org). ●

## Sara Majeske Named 2021 LRCC Ambassador of the Year

When you attend a Chamber event, whether it is an Economic Club luncheon, Annual Dinner, Member Mixer or a ribbon cutting celebrating a new business opening, there is always a group of friendly faces helping make that event run smoothly and helping LRCC members make connections with one another. Chamber Ambassadors are a critical extension of the LRCC team and provide a vital service to the membership. The Lansing Regional Chamber of Commerce recently recognized one of its Ambassadors, Sara Majeske, as the LRCC 2021 Ambassador of the Year. Sara, who served as chair of the Ambassadors committee in 2021, received her award on June 16 at the LRCC Annual Dinner.

"I am incredibly thankful for the recognition from my peers on the Ambassador team," said Majeske. "Our Ambassador team is filled with well-deserving professionals, any one of whom could have won this award and everyone would be excited for them. Every one of us strives to help our community grow and improve, and I feel really honored to be selected for this award."

Majeske joined the Ambassador team shortly after moving to the area in 2016. She was looking for a way to be involved and build relationships in the business arena.

"Being an Ambassador allowed me to both serve and showcase our community," said Majeske. "The role challenges me to be a better version of myself, a stronger community leader and a cheerleader for the Greater Lansing community."

Being an Ambassador gives Majeske the opportunity to experience different venues and be involved in exciting new developments in the region.

"I love hearing about all of the amazing progress happening and shake hands with people in our community that are growing and pursuing their dreams," said Majeske. "It is really a great way for me to be able to tell my coworkers, friends and family about what is to come in the community."

Majeske graduated from Central Michigan University with a dual major in public relations and communication

Sara with the team at Custom Built Design and remodeling.



Majeske

which she says laid the foundation for her both as a working professional and a volunteer. She has always been involved in serving others since college, including being active in her sorority where she participated on the leadership team, led a bible study, participating in intramural sports and an intern with Southwestern Advantage. She also helped launch a student organization called Lead which encouraged students to pursue their goals.

"I think the combination of being able to learn and be involved in the community has pushed me to see the value in both," said Majeske. "I can be successful in my day-to-day work and have extra curriculums that will inevitably help my company be more successful and help me grow as a person."

Majeske is employed as the executive assistant to the owner of Custom Built Design and Remodeling, Mike Flory. She loves that her position allows her to use the full range of skills as a leader in sales, public relations and networking. She is also excited that she and husband Jacob are expecting their first child in the fall. She is thankful for the leadership team at Custom Built that has a philosophy of impacting families that work for Custom Built so they can better serve the families that become their clients.

"I am thankful that Custom Built is going to grow with me in this new professional, personal season of welcoming an addition to our family," said Majeske. "I am looking forward to finding this new balance of fulfillment and success as a new mom and as a working professional and helping the community continue to grow." ●

## NEW HIRES



Swain



Searl

**Ngage Management** is pleased to welcome **Meghan Swain**, association director and **Katie Searl**, communications and public relations manager as its newest team members. Swain has more than two decades of experience in serving associations at the executive level and offers insight and direction in the areas of board engagement, government affairs, advocacy, and legislation. With more than 20 years of experience in communications, Searl brings creative content strategy and extensive knowledge of marketing, branding, and media relations to her role.

On June 1, the **Mason Public Schools Board (MPS)** of Education met with the final three superintendent candidates. After much input from stakeholders and hearing from all the candidates, the Board voted to offer **Dr. Gary Kinzer** the position as the next superintendent of Mason Public Schools. He joined the district officially on July 1, 2022. Dr. Kinzer was previously the assistant superintendent of Human Resources at Novi Community Schools serving over 900 employees and 6,900 students.



Kirchmeier

**Edward Jones – Jack Miceli** welcomes **Joshua Kirchmeier**, who joins their team with extensive experience with Edward Jones. He previously worked at the Edward Jones office in Jackson, Michigan and is

excited about the opportunity to work with customers in fulfilling their administrative needs while continuing to provide the same level of exceptional service they have come to expect from the office.

**Horizon Bank** is pleased to announce **Mark A. Rogers** as branch manager of their East Lansing and Okemos branches located at 1600 Abbot Road, East Lansing and 2151 West Grand River, Okemos, Michigan respectively. He will oversee the daily retail operations along with managing sales and service of the branch. Rogers has 14 years in a combination of retail, business banking and treasury management experience in Southeast Michigan.



Munishamaiah

**Alyse Munishamaiah** is excited to join the **Central Michigan University** team as associate director of outreach, business, and community engagement for the Capital Region. Munishamaiah is a proud CMU alumna with a bachelor's in Psychology and a Master's in Social Work from Wayne State University and is licensed in the State of Michigan. Munishamaiah is responsible for connecting with corporate, education, and community organizations to develop partnerships through credit and noncredit professional development and education opportunities.



Meyer

homebuyers navigate the home loan process. With more than 21 years'

experience as a mortgage loan officer, Meyer's success can be traced back to her passion for servant leadership.



**Delta Township** welcomed seven new firefighters this month. Throughout this month they have attended the DTF training Academy and soon their new recruits will be assigned shifts and stations and will be seen on the streets of Delta Township. They are proud to introduce you to **Justin Burns, Alejandro (Alex) Gutierrez, Carter Shaw, Joseph Kordenbrock, Alex Seaton, Owen VanDerBos, and Alecia Harlow.**



LeBarre



Babcock



Rosekrans

**Rosekrans** – project manager for Martin Property Development.

Three new employees have joined the team at **Martin Commercial Properties**; **Sarah LeBarre** – office manager; **David Babcock** – IT coordinator and **Wesley**

## AWARDS

**WKAR Public Media** staff have been honored with three regional Emmy® awards by the Michigan Chapter of the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences. The awards were announced at 44th

Annual Emmy® Michigan Awards Gala on June 11, 2022. WKAR is a PBS affiliate serving Michigan's capital region. 44th Emmy Award Winners from WKAR: *Technology Algorithmic Injustice?*, **Carol Yancho**, senior producer; program host/moderator/correspondent, *Curious Crew* Host Composite **Dr. Rob Stephenson**, host and graphic arts (Motion Graphics), *Curious Crew* Graphics Composite, **Daniel Wogan**, graphic artist.



**Sara Dolan, MSU Federal Credit Union (MSUFCU)** chief financial officer, recently received the 2022 Outstanding Service Award by the Credit Union National Association

(CUNA) Finance Council. CUNA is a national association that advocates on behalf of all American credit unions

by delivering support, professional growth, and operational confidence to credit union leaders. The Outstanding Service Award recognizes a credit union leader who is dedicated to their credit union's core values and provides exceptional support to their employees, members, and community.



For the fourth time in seven years, **LAFCU** has been chosen as the winner of the Innovation Award from the Michigan Credit Union League, the state's credit union trade association. The award was received for LAFCU's Love & Equality Art Initiative, which uses Michigan art to help heal the community after the tumultuous events of 2020.

LAFCU's virtual children's reading program, Listen & Learn, placed second for the Dora Maxwell Social Responsibility Community Service Award, which recognizes credit union efforts to strengthen and improve the community through outreach beyond personal finance education.

The **Arts Council of Greater Lansing** and **Ingham County** are proud to announce the 2022 Ingham County Hotel/Motel Funds for Arts and Tourism grantees. This year, grant funds totaling \$171,420.30 will be awarded to area arts organizations. The arts and tourism awards were given to 23 Capital Region arts and cultural organizations and will support their publicity efforts as well as boost tourism to our area. Arts and tourism funding was provided to the following organizations: Against All Odds; All of the Above Hip Hop Academy; All-of-us Express Children's Theatre; Capital City Film Festival; Downtown Lansing Inc.; East Lansing Art Festival; Eli and

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Edythe Broad Art Museum at MSU; Grit, Glam & Guts; Impression 5 Science Center; Lacor Consultants/Old Town Commercial Association; Lansing 5:01; Lansing Art Gallery & Education Center; Lansing Entertainment and Public Facilities Authority (LEPFA); Lansing Symphony Orchestra; Michigan Institute for Contemporary Art (MICA); Nokomis Cultural Heritage Center; Peppermint Creek Theatre Company; R.E. Olds Transportation Museum; REACH Studio Art Center; REO Town Commercial Association; The Cracked Pot Studio Tour; Wharton Center for Performing Arts; Williamston Theatre.

**Big Brothers Big Sisters Michigan Capital Region (BBBSMCR)** has been recognized as a 2022 Big Brothers Big Sisters of America (BBBSA) Quality Award Winner. Every year, BBBS agencies are recognized by BBBSA Nationwide Leadership Council, made up of local Big Brothers Big Sisters agency leaders and board members, for excellence in the organization's signature 1-to-1 youth mentoring program. Out of approximately 230 Big Brothers Big Sisters agencies across the country, BBBSMCR is one of 53 organizations to receive this top honor.



**McLaren Greater Lansing** has received the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association's 2022 Get with the Guidelines®-Stroke Gold Plus/Honor Roll Elite Achievement Award for their continued success in utilizing the Get with the Guidelines for Stroke patient management program. The award recognizes the hospital's commitment to ensuring stroke patients receive the most appropriate treatment according to nationally recognized, research-based guidelines based on the latest scientific evidence.

## DISTINCTIONS

Two executives of construction/development firms in the Greater Lansing region were recognized on the inaugural list of Notable Women in Construction, Design & Architecture created by Crain's Detroit. Joining the list were **Rachel Michaud** of **Gillespie Group** and **Melissa Collar** of **Rockford Construction**.

The Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society (HIMSS) has revalidated **Sparrow Health System's** Stage 7 status for their adoption and use of electronic medical records (EMR). Besides Sparrow Hospital in Lansing, the designation includes Sparrow Clinton and Sparrow Ionia hospitals and, for the first time, Sparrow Carson, Sparrow Eaton and Sparrow Specialty Hospital. It also covers all ambulatory care sites. Stage 7 status is the highest level of EMR adoption and use recognized by HIMSS. Sparrow now has six of the 11 Michigan hospitals who are Stage 7.



Pline

**NovaCare Rehabilitation** is pleased to announce that local occupational therapist **Shelbi Pline** has earned the distinguished Certified Hand Therapist designation through the Hand Therapy Certification Commission (HTCC). This certification is awarded for achieving the highest recognition of competency in the profession of upper limb rehabilitation. In order to pass the certification, individuals must have at least five years of clinical experience as an occupational therapist, a minimum of 4,000 hours in direct practice in hand therapy and successful completion of advanced clinical skills and theory in upper limb rehabilitation.

**WIELAND** is thrilled to announce that once again it has landed on the Engineering News Record's list of top

contractors in America. Wieland made the largest jump of any contractor, moving from #340 to #146. Wieland's volume of \$665.5 million in 2021 was the culmination of a year in which it excelled in the paper and pulp industry, continued its work in the automotive facility arena and kept serving repeat clients in the multi-family sector.



Flintoff

training in the fitness industry. Flintoff is now the only individual in the State of Michigan to hold this credential.

**Sparrow Ionia Hospital**, on behalf of the Sparrow Foundation, has awarded \$500 scholarships to eight recent Ionia County high school graduates who plan to pursue higher education in the healthcare field. The latest recipients are: **Jessica Rodriguez-Damaso**, Belding High School; Nursing; Grand Valley State University; **Katelyn Strachan**, Ionia County Career Center; Nursing; Grand Valley State University; **Josie Phelps**, Ionia High School; Diagnostic Medical Sonography; Lansing Community College; **Ellie Haddox**, Lakewood High School; Biology Pre-Medicine; Ferris State University; **Lizbeth Bernal-Ponce**, Pewamo-Westphalia High School; Nursing; Grand Valley State University; **Ava Guilford**, Portland High School; Exercise Science and Pre-Physical Therapy; Albion College; **Sarah Davlin**, Portland St. Patrick High School; Nursing; University of St. Thomas and **Natalie Olsen**, Saranac Junior/Senior High; Nursing; Western Michigan University.

The Engineering News-Record (ENR), a news outlet known as the authority for tracking the construction

industry, has placed **The Christman Company (Christman)** at No. 87 on its 2022 "ENR 400" list of the top 400 contractors nationally. Headquartered in Lansing, Christman also landed at No. 51 in the list of Top 100 Construction Management-at-Risk firms and No. 85 on the 2022 ENR list of Top 100 Contractors by New Contracts.



Stoll

**Phil Stoll**, a recent graduate of LifeTech Academy and construction technology student at the **Wilson Talent Center**, placed 7th in the nation in the plumbing competition at the SkillsUSA National Leadership Conference in Atlanta, Georgia. Stoll earned the trip to Atlanta by receiving the first-place gold medal at the SkillsUSA Michigan

competition in the same category in April. SkillsUSA is a partnership of students, teachers and industry working together to ensure America has a skilled workforce.

**PROMOTIONS**



Tennant

the recent retirement of former SCH President **Beth Daugherty**. Previously serving as vice president of Patient Experience for Sparrow Health System, Tennant offers 16 years of experience with Sparrow and 30-plus years as a highly skilled, inspiring and innovative healthcare leader.

**Sparrow Clinton Hospital** caregivers have welcomed longtime healthcare leader **Kris Tennant** as the hospital's new interim president. Tennant stepped into the role upon



Hansel

senior associate director of enrollment, Michigan, and in 2022. Casie is responsible for leading a team of twelve tasked with developing and strengthening partnerships and building pathways to CMU Online, credit, noncredit, badging, and credentialing programs

**Casie Hansel** began her tenure at **Central Michigan University** in 2019 as the assistant director of enrollment, capital area, and in 2020 was promoted to the

**Clark Schaefer Hackett** is excited to announce the firm's 2022 promotions. New managers: **Martin Comden**, East Lansing and **Daniel Morris**, East Lansing. New senior: **Benjamin Feliczak**, East Lansing. New staff IIs: **Katrina Baergen**, East Lansing. Department promotions: **Amelia DelReal**, senior technical support analyst, East Lansing and **Michelle**

**Wilber**, senior outsource accounting specialist, East Lansing.



Entler

and chief clinical officer. Dr. Entler succeeds the retired Karen Kent VanGorder, M.D., who served as the health system's senior vice president and chief medical and quality officer. In his new role, Dr. Entler will lead the Sparrow Health System medical staff, patient experience and continue his innovative work in improving patient safety and quality of care.

**Sparrow physician Paul Entler, D.O.**, a strong advocate for patient safety and improved quality, has been named Sparrow Health System's senior vice president

The **Kelley Cawthorne** lobbying firm announced Wednesday the elevation of three of its lobbyists to partner. **Jim Kirsch, Jason Sheppard** and **David Hildenbrand** are now partners in the firm. They join the group's existing partners: **Rob Elhenicky, Dave Ladd, Carrie Linderoth** and **Melissa McKinley**. Kirsch has been with Kelley Cawthorne since 2017, having previously lobbied for AT&T and before that worked for the Senate Democratic central staff. Hildenbrand and Sheppard previously served in the Legislature, Hildenbrand in the House from 2005-10 and the Senate from 2011-18 and Sheppard in the House from 2015-20.

**BOARDS OF DIRECTORS**

**Highfields Inc.**, a multi-purpose human services organization for children and families, inducted seven new members to the Board of Directors for the 2022-2023 calendar year. The new members of the board include **Aaron Davis** (Fraser Trebilcock), **Amanda Denney** (MSU Federal Credit Union), **Ashley Higginson** (Miller Canfield), **Dan Korte** (Clark Construction), **Tom Reder** (Bergmann Associates), **Jacob Sabins**

A Leadership Book with a **TWIST**

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(Clark Trombley Randers), and **Capt. Anthony Stewart** (Jackson County – Wesley Street Jail). The Board of Directors also features five new officer positions which include the Chair – **Anne Brown** (Associated General Contractors), Chair-Elect – **Robert Easterly** (Grewal Law), Past Chair – **Erika Fussman** (AML Compliance Risk Manager Senior USAA), Secretary – **Sam Davis** (Michigan High School Athletic Association), and Treasurer – **Peter Tratt** (Plante Moran).

**Sparrow Health System President** and CEO **James F. Dover, FACHE**, has been reappointed to a three-year term on the Board of Trustees of the **Michigan Health & Hospital Association (MHA)**. Dover, first appointed to the board in 2020, will continue to serve as a trustee-at-large for the MHA, which represents hospitals and healthcare providers statewide.

## COMPANY NEWS

The **Dart Foundation** has made its largest gift to date to the **Impression 5 Science** enter to ensure the Science Center's long-term future and bring high-caliber traveling exhibits to mid-Michigan. The Dart Foundation grant of \$2.25 million is also the largest single gift Impression 5 has received in its 50-year history and is a key lead gift to the Science Center's Future 50 Campaign, a fundraising initiative paving the way for another 50 years of innovation at Impression 5.



**LAFCU** employees were serving up financial reality at Lansing Christian School in May. To help seniors better understand personal finance, the Michigan credit union presented a 1.5-hour Financial Reality Fair that tasked students to create real-life financial budgets for living independently. Students were provided estimated

salaries, based on pre-selected careers, and assigned credit scores.



Almost a decade ago autism activist **Xavier DeGroat** read "Thinking in Pictures" – written by animal scientist **Dr. Temple Grandin**. DeGroat could not wait a second to contact her. Shortly after reaching out to her, Dr. Grandin called his house phone. A year later DeGroat met her and she graciously agreed to support the Xavier DeGroat Autism Foundation (XDAF) at the Meridian Mall. Dr. Grandin agreed to support XDAF after she had heard about the grand opening of DeGroat's autism-history museum which is the first of its kind in the nation. Dr. Grandin was the featured speaker at a dinner/gala for XDAF on July 8th.

**Martin Commercial Properties**, a leading privately-owned real estate services and development company, facilitated leases at two professional office buildings in Lansing, Michigan to relocate Community Mental Health Association of Michigan and provide additional court space for Ingham County 30th Circuit Court. Community Mental Health Association of Michigan will stay close to its former site with a move from a 10,857-square-foot building at 426 S. Walnut to the top floor, consisting of 5,200 square feet, at 507 S. Grand, transferring its operations less than half a mile away to a space that provides a workplace to facilitate their operation into the future.

On Friday, June 24, a ribbon-cutting ceremony was held to celebrate major improvements at **Clinton Lakes County Park** to enhance the water based recreational experience for visitors. Clinton Lakes County Park is a 272-acre property that was acquired in November 2013. The recent improvements to Clinton Lakes County

Park include additional and paved parking lots, sidewalks, kayak launch, signage, bike rack and a dog beach located on Little Clinton Lake. Under the direction of the **Clinton County Board of Commissioners** and Parks and Green Space Commission, the County applied for and received a Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) Grant from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources in 2019.



Vocera Communications, Inc. is a leader in clinical communication and workflow management. Team members at **McLaren Greater Lansing** are now equipped with a wearable, voice-controlled Vocera Smartbadge — a voice-activated, hands-free solution that allows users to keep working while communicating with each other. Staff members can securely send and receive text messages, along with key alarm and alert notifications, while in the facility.



The seven adults who completed **LAFCU's** first comprehensive personal finance course have already reaped benefits of the 16-session course designed to help participants improve financial behavior and build a roadmap to attain financial freedom. The graduates of LAFCU Pathway to Financial Transformation are **Barbara Andersen**, East Lansing; **Michael Boles Sr.**, Lansing; **Mackenzie Callahan**, Normal, Illinois; **Cathy Daniels**, Dimondale; **Robin Kinzel**, Howell; **Tabitha Thompson**, St. Johns; and **Lori Wurm**, St. Johns. Classes were spread over eight months so students could see benefits of making even small changes in their financial behavior throughout the course.



Major League Baseball Hall of Famer and Lansing native **John Smoltz** was in town in late June to break ground on the Strikeout Baseball project. The baseball stadium will be located at Ferris Park in downtown Lansing, adjacent to Beacon Soccer Field. Strikeout Baseball is a conceptual baseball facility that allows players to pitch, hit, and field in a miniature stadium environment. Learn more about Strikeout Baseball by visiting [www.strikeoutbaseballusa.org](http://www.strikeoutbaseballusa.org).



**MSU Federal Credit Union (MSUFCU)** was pleased to welcome community members to their Juntos Avanzamos accreditation celebration event on June, 22. MSUFCU earned the Juntos Avanzamos designation for its commitment to serving and empowering the Hispanic community. As a Juntos Avanzamos credit union, MSUFCU employs bilingual and culturally competent employees and leaders; accepts alternative forms of ID; and treats all members with respect regardless of immigration status.

The **Xavier DeGroat Autism Foundation (XDAF)** has established catering at the DeGroat Autism Grill which was set-up during the entire day at the "Celebrate Meridian Festival" on Saturday, June 25, outside in the parking lot of the Meridian Mall in Central Park. In addition, the Foundation featured XDAF Exhibits with many activities and functions including an awards ceremony involving many community advocates, games such as putt-putt golf action and fireworks. XDAF is a proud sponsor for Meridian Township.

Returning for its 11th year from July 11-22, the PBS Short Film Festival was back with an annual virtual showcase of independent films from featured filmmakers across the country. This year, WKAR's **Nicole Zaremba**, director and producer for **WKAR-TV**, had a short film entered in the showcase. With this year's theme *Stories that Stick*, the PBS Short Film Festival highlighted the impact of powerful storytelling. The featured films covered topics such as race, social injustice, religion, family, environment, public policy, and love.

**MSU Federal Credit Union (MSUFCU)** and **Michigan State Athletics** have announced a naming entitlement for the club and suite areas inside Spartan Stadium and Munn Ice Arena. The 10-year agreement will change the names of the areas to the MSUFCU Club and Suites. The MSUFCU Club, located on the fourth floor of Spartan Stadium, offers a host of amenities designed to provide fans with the ultimate game-day experience, including complimentary food and beverage services. The air conditioned and heat-equipped club area is 18,500 square feet with comfortable living room style furniture, multiple TVs, private restrooms, and elevator access.

Construction has begun on a new \$4 million, facility that will serve student organizations in the **Michigan State University** College of Engineering. The William A. Demmer Engineering Center will provide an on-campus facility for registered student organizations to do everything from work on the Formula SAE and Solar Team cars to inventing the next generation of hands-on student organizations.

Michigan Association of Retired School Personnel (MARSP) has sold their former headquarters building in Lansing to the **Gillespie Group** in a transaction facilitated by **Martin Commercial Properties**, a leading privately-owned real estate services and development company. The Gillespie Group specializes in transforming communities

with innovative commercial and residential real estate solutions. Following the sale, the Gillespie Group selected Martin Commercial Properties as the exclusive listing agent to lease the property at 3645 E. Jolly Road, Lansing.

**Infusion Associates**, a leading provider of medically prescribed outpatient infusion and injection therapies in the Midwest, has opened its 10th infusion clinic in East Lansing, Michigan at 830 West Lake Lansing Road. The newly refinished site is specifically designed for immunocompromised patients and has 17 infusion chairs and four private rooms, and gives patients access to comfortable reclining chairs, TV entertainment, high speed internet, and more.

**Triterra**, a Michigan-based environmental consulting firm, is pleased to announce the opening of their Grand Rapids Office. Triterra has opened their third office location at 625 Kenmoor Avenue SE, Ste. 204 in Grand Rapids. Triterra's corporate office location will remain in Lansing, and they also have an Alma, Michigan office location.

As Michigan became the 14th state in the U.S. to mandate financial education at the high school level with the passing of HB 5190, **Consumers Credit Union** is broadening efforts to share even more high-quality financial education, including an exciting partnership with Grand Rapids-based non-profit Young Money Finances (YMF). A financial education program, YMF facilitates learning to kids ages 11-17 by teaching real-life money management skills. Built upon four core pillars, spend, save, share and invest, YMF is helping today's kids prepare for a successful financial future. This summer, YMF is holding three camps in Grand Rapids. For three weeks, each camp will meet four times a week, for two hours each day as youth learn about money in ways that could change the course of their lives. ●



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