# FOCUS

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

**AUGUST 2023** 

# PROTECTING THE PLANET IS GOOD BUSINESS

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Lansing Regional Chamber of Commerce

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# Arnie Keyes: He was a True Gentleman



Keyes

he Lansing Regional Chamber of Commerce (LRCC) team lost a trusted colleague and friend with the sudden passing of our Chief Financial Officer, Arnie Keyes.

Arnie had a deep passion for business, including owning his own small business for a number of years. Arnie was instrumental in the LRCC's growth and stability during his 11 years in the organization. Arnie joined our team in 2011 as we were coming out of the great recession. He was a stabilizing force, establishing a financial foundation that allowed us to grow. In many ways, we wouldn't be where we are today as an organization if it wasn't for

Arnie's leadership and dedication. He was a rock.

Arnie was proud of his role at the LRCC and his ability to positively impact the future of the Greater Lansing region. Most importantly, Arnie was a great friend to all who knew him. He was well-liked by everyone on our team and by our members. He was a true gentleman.

Much has been made in organizational culture about the importance of five generations in the workplace. Arnie was a baby boomer. Truth be told, I was somewhat concerned when Arnie and I first met as to how he would fit with our millennial-rich team. Those concerns were quickly dashed as he not only integrated smoothly but also rose to serve as a mentor to so many—including myself.

The business savvy and entrepreneurial spirit Arnie brought to the Chamber came in large part as a result of his vast business background including serving as president/ owner of Kids Quarters, a children's furniture store with two locations. He also served as a CFO for the management consulting firm of Normich, Inc. and also served as CFO for Miller Hospitality.

As much as Arnie valued his professional career and particularly his work at the Chamber, he was first and foremost a family man. He was a loving husband, father and grandfather. He married the love of his life, Rose in 1980 with whom he had two children, Geoffrey and Bethany, as well as three grandchildren. He thoroughly enjoyed being involved in his children's and grandchildren's lives. Rose and Arnie were married 40 years before her passing in 2020. Arnie was also a dedicated member of his church, Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Parish, where he and Rose were married. Appropriately, Arnie served his church by serving on its finance council.

We lost a good person with the passing of Arnie Keyes. When you lose someone like Arnie, it takes a toll on a team. We are not the same without Arnie. We also realize that we are stronger as an organization and richer as individuals because we had Arnie for as long as we did. For that, we are forever grateful.

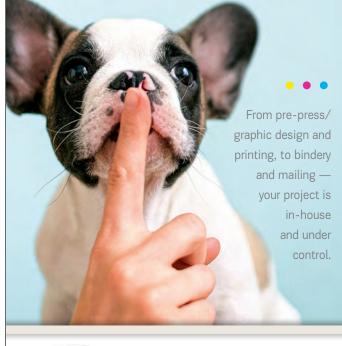


TIM DAMAN PRESIDENT AND CEO LANSING REGIONAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



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# August 2023



#### AUGUST MEMBER MIXER

Tuesday, Aug. 8, from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. Gravity Smokehouse Brew & Que, 2440 Cedar Street, Holt

Network with fellow Lansing Regional Chamber members and business professionals at t one of Holt's newest restaurants - Gravity Smokehouse! The patio will be open and the brisket will be smoking for all of our guests to enjoy.

**Cost:** This event is offered at no cost.

8/9

8/22

#### ATHENA WIN GIRLS' NIGHT OUT: KAYAKING DOWN THE GRAND RIVER

Wednesday, Aug. 9, from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. Dimondale Canoe & Kayak, 9995 Billwood Highway, Dimondale

Come take a kayak trip down the Grand River with the ATHENA WIN Girls' Night Out Committee! The trip down the river takes approximately 1.5 hours. Dimondale Canoe & Kayak will transport you to Danford Island Park launch site, which includes several lagoons to paddle around in, as you head down the river. Life jackets, paddles, and single kayaks will be provided. Participants can bring water, sunscreen, bug spray, and snacks. No alcohol, glass bottles, styrofoam, illegal substances, or firearms allowed. There will be a pit-stop about 1/3 of the way into the trip that includes a bonfire, snacks and drinks.

**Cost:** \$25 for ATHENA WIN members & \$35 for future members.

#### BUSINESS EDUCATION SERIES: SETTING MEANINGFUL GOALS & TIME BLOCKING FOR SUCCESS

Tuesday, Aug. 22, from 10 to 11:30 a.m. Lansing Regional Chamber, 500 E. Michigan Avenue, Suite 200, Lansing

Led by Lisa Fisher of Lisa Fisher Associates, this course is designed to empower individuals with the knowledge and skills to set meaningful goals, establish priorities, and effectively manage their time through the practice of time blocking. Participants will learn practical strategies and techniques to enhance their goal-setting abilities, develop a clear sense of direction, and optimize their productivity. Participants will gain the tools and confidence to take control of their lives, make progress towards their goals, and achieve sustainable success.

**Cost:** The event is offered at no cost to Lansing Regional Chamber members and \$25 for future members.

# Thank You Renewing Members

A. Dean Watkins - East. Inc. Abood Law Firm Advantage Group American Red Cross-Mid Michigan Chapter Armond Dalton Publishers, Inc. Athletico Physical Therapy - Delta Twp. Athletico Physical Therapy - Okemos Baker Drivetrain Bornor Restoration, Inc. Brian Songer Agency - Farm Bureau Insurance Cafecito Caliente Candlewood Suites Lansing Capital Area Humane Society Capital Area Transportation Authority (CATA) CASE Credit Union Chase Bank Clark Schaefer Hackett **Curvaceous Lingerie** Derksen Dentistry Eastwood Towne Center Eric's Refuse. LLC Exit Realty Home Partners **Greater Lansing United Nations** Assn.-USA Harbert Home Systems

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PMI Global Services Inc. Precision Garage Door of Mid Michigan Principal Financial Group - Benjamin Eichler **R** Journey Radisson Hotel Lansing Reed Insurance Agency RetroDuck.com, Inc. Rosier Consultants LLC Skin Studio 211 Studio Intrigue Architects The Sarah Schafer Farmers Agency The Venue by Eleven 11 Events Tim Barry Agency - Farm Bureau Insurance Tri-County Office On Aging The Willows at Okemos Woodbridge Commons Cooperative

# **Chamber Milestones**

**Chase Bank** 50 Years

Bornor Restoration, Inc. 25 Years

Brian Songer Agency – Farm Bureau Insurance 10 Years InVerve Marketing Inc. 10 Years

**Tim Barry Agency - Farm Bureau Insurance** 10 Years

Woodbridge Commons Cooperative 10 Years Baker Drivetrain 5 Years

ICCS, Inc. - International Consulting & Contracting Services 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!

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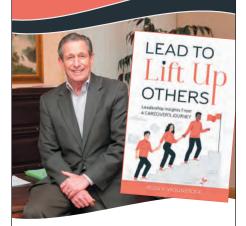
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Author: Ross Woodstock Executive Coach and Leadership Consultant Available on Amazon amazon

# Welcome New Members

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**Gravity Smokehouse** 517-258-4900 www.gravitysmokehouse.com 2440 Cedar Street Holt. MI 48842

**A&D Repair and Collision** (517) 339-6007 www.adrepairinc.com 8036 Old M-78 Haslett, MI 48840

**Insight School of Michigan** (517) 580-0020 insightmi.k12.com 527 S. Creyts Rd., Suite A Lansing, MI 48917

J & L Restoration and Cleaning, Inc. (517) 322-3000 www.jlrestoration.com 7636 Northport Drive Lansing, MI 48917

**American House Meridian** (517) 836-1388 www.americanhouse.com/meridian 1673 Haslett Rd. Haslett, MI 48840

> Novi Properties, LLC (517) 331-4039 4800 Collins Road, Unit 27006 Lansing, MI 48909

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AC Hotel Lansing-University Area (517) 337-7771 www.marriott.com/en-us/hotels/ lanac-ac-hotel-lansing 3160 East Michigan Ave. Lansing, MI 48912

Hyatt House Lansing East-**University Area** (517) 337-2626 https://www.hyatt.com/en-US/hotel/ michigan/hyatt-house-lansinguniversity-area/lanxl 3150 East Michigan Ave. Lansing, MI 48912

> Hager Fox Heating and Air Conditioning (517) 513-6539 www.hagerfox.com 2960 Ena Dr. Lansing, MI48917

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# 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 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.

Program, and through its

Safe Community program

provides safety equipment

and professional training

to local police and fire

Enbridge has been

looking to the future

for many years – quietly

departments.

# Enbridge: 70 Years of Being the Bridge to the Energy Future

By: Cionne Casanova, Kolt Communications, Inc.

ver the past 70 years, Enbridge has grown into North America's energy delivery leader and one of the leading companies in the world for renewables and diverse energy sources. With its renewable energy focus



food waste.

and extensive energy transportation network spanning the US and Canada, Enbridge is driving the energy of the future forward.

In Michigan, the company's Great Lakes tunnel project, a four-mile utility tunnel to be bored under the straits of Mackinac to connect the upper and lower peninsulas, is playing a central role in the company's energy modernization work.

Anna Mooney, manager of government relations for Enbridge and Ryan Duffy, Enbridge's communications strategist talked about the company's history and how they continue to achieve major milestones.

"It's really in our name – Enbridge. Our business approach is to be a diversified and forward leaning energy company that enables the bridge to the clean energy future that our world is demanding, and we are modernizing the systems that deliver on that promise," said Duffy.

Not only does Enbridge play a vital role in powering Michiganders' everyday lives, but the company also has a significant presence in



Mooney



Duffy

the Greater Lansing region. The company owns and operates the Stockbridge Terminal, which temporarily stores crude oil as it moves through Enbridge's pipeline system to be delivered to refineries throughout the region; the refineries then process the crude oil, fuels, and other products people, manufacturers, farmers, and others use every day.

These storage facilities as well as its pipelines, pump stations, and other related facilities make Enbridge Ingham County's leading taxpayer. Enbridge is a proud supporter of Stockbridge Community Schools' STEM "Being here for people by providing clean energy isn't new to us. It's our business and how we think about supplying energy and making the world better. We always ask ourselves, 'how do we continue to invest in a sustainable energy future?' We continue to make huge

strides to accomplish this," said Mooney.

and steadily building a solid foundation for the clean

energy transition with the right mix of technology for

making traditional fossil fuels cleaner and securing the company's role in solar, wind, carbon capture, and even

Enbridge has worked hard to ensure their Line 5 pipeline, which also delivers crude oil to Great Lakes region refiners, is the latest in modern infrastructure, environmental protections and safety.

The Great Lakes Tunnel project aims to be one of the largest infrastructure projects in Northern Michigan since the construction of the Mackinac Bridge. Enbridge has made sure that its construction will also open itself to many uses. The Great Lakes Tunnel Project is talked of as a "utility corridor" in the sense that after Enbridge funds the building of the tunnel the and state of Michigan will own it with opportunities for other utilities, such as fiberoptics, to be safely housed in the tunnel as they connect people in Michigan's two peninsulas.

"We take great pride in being a part of the Mid-Michigan area over the last 70 years and providing the energy that helps power manufacturing, agriculture, motorists, airport travelers and freight, and so much more. We see a great future for this region and look forward to continuing to partner with the Chamber supporting its growth as a thriving community," said Mooney.

Building on its work over the last 70 years and maintaining its commitment to the community the company is making sure they continue to be the firstchoice for energy delivery for customers.

# Shanker Beverage Company, Formerly Canada Dry Bottling Co. of Lansing, Announces Name Change and Celebrates 90 Years

By: Hailey Kenward, Kolt Communications, Inc.

hanker Beverage Company has changed its name from Canada Dry Bottling Co. of Lansing, following the ending of their relationship with Keurig Dr Pepper last year. Shanker Beverage Company is a multi-

Same Family NEW NAME 90 Years 5 Generations

Same Company

generational business that has served the Lansing area loyally since 1933.

It was originally named Hi-Klas Beverage Co. created by Louis Shanker, a Jewish-Polish immigrant who arrived in the United States in 1912. In 1952, following the beginning of a relationship with Keurig Dr Pepper in 1946, Hi-Klas changed the name of their business to Canada Dry Bottling Co. of Lansing.

Shortly after this partnership began, World War II Veteran Jack Shanker joined his father in running the business, which he continued to do until retiring in 1986. At this point, Larry Shanker, Jack's son and the father of the current president, Randy Shanker, took over. Randy formally joined this family legacy in 1997.

"We never expected to lose our relationship with Keurig Dr Pepper," said Randy Shanker the fourth generation president of the company. "The interesting thing about this industry is, that despite this loss, we were able to pivot and have already made up all the sales from the loss of that relationship with our current brands and new partnerships."

When Randy joined the family business, they were operating eight total brands. Now, they have 45 brands and embrace the idea of being a brand builder. They create a relationship between themselves and the brands they represent to assist brands in growing and becoming category leaders.

"The biggest challenge of running a smaller generationally run business is trying to compete with big conglomerates who truly strive to put us out of business and purchase the brands we represent," said Shanker. "There is not a more competitive industry than beverages. To compete, we utilize our size and ability to execute and change on a dime when needed."

The company's name change is a monumental step for Shanker Beverage Company. The new name came with a lot of thought into their own identity. "Our family name is well known in the industry and our customers and brand partners know us by our family name as much as they knew us by Canada Dry Lansing," said Randy. "We are proud of the fact that we are a multi-generational family business.

Everything we do impacts mid-Michigan and the nine counties we service and that is something we wanted to express through the name we chose."

Randy's father and mentor, Larry, passed away unexpectedly of cancer in April. "My Dad was so excited for the name change. This was his life's work and I know he is very proud of everyone who has been part of this Company for 90 years and counting."

For more information about the Shanker Beverage Company visit **www.shankerbev.com.** •

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# Q2 2023 Michigan Future Business Index: Michigan's Small Businesses Report Inflation Eating Into Their Profits

n a recent statewide survey of 615 small to mediumsized businesses, respondents to the latest Michigan Future Business Index (MFBI) survey indicated even though the impacts of the weakening economy have



emerged on the list of top challenges to doing business in Michigan in the past six months, overall concerns for a deepening recession or continued inflation appears to be softening. While the impacts of wage inflation remain high, they appear to have crested.

The semi-annual MFBI was commissioned by the Michigan Business Network. The survey is sponsored by Cinnaire and conducted by the Michigan-based market research firm ROI Insight. Josh Ghena, Cinnaire senior vice president of equity business funding, recently joined Chris Holman, Michigan Business Network CEO, to share the survey results in a forum.

"The results of the Michigan Future Business Index provide data for community leaders, policymakers, and advocates to understand the challenges business owners face in today's economy," said Ghena. "The survey provides an opportunity for small business owners to share their unique perspective on



Ghena



Holman

Michigan's economy to help decision-makers address the challenges to doing business in Michigan. Small businesses are a cornerstone of healthy communities and Cinnaire is proud to support the vital role they play by sponsoring the MFBI survey."

The survey found sales and profits both saw a decline over the past six months, with profit increases hitting a record low for the MFBI. That said, overall satisfaction with the business economy has improved significantly since last year, with half now saying they are satisfied with the economy. A majority of respondents now say they've fully recovered from the COVID-19 pandemic and comments to open-ended questions indicate that small business owners are becoming bullish on Michigan's future economy.

Chris Holman, who started the survey in 2003 and took it statewide in 2006, shared this about the latest findings. "The

latest MFBI, reproves something that we see every time. The resilience, the tenacity, and the positive attitude of Michigan businesses about tomorrow. It's one of the major reasons we should all be proud to be doing business in Michigan. Though they have some complaints, Michigan businesses are bullish on just that... being Michigan businesses."



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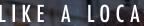
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# Pave the Way: How The Construction of I–496 Impacted Lansing

nyone who has driven in the Lansing area is familiar with the reconstruction project on I-496. As motorists, the prospect of a rebuilt stretch of freeway that serves as one of the main transportation arteries is very welcome. However, a Lansing area coalition decided to use the rebirth of I-496 as an opportunity to revisit the original construction of I-496 and how the project had a dramatic impact on Lansing neighborhoods, its residents, particularly African- Americans, businesses, schools and churches.

"We thought it would be timely to do a project related to the dislocation of an enormous segment of population," said Bill Castanier, president, The Historical Society of Greater Lansing (HSGL.) "It's been more than 60 years and it's a story that needs to be told."



The 11 mile stretch of freeway runs from U.S.127 through Delta Township. 35 streets were dead-ended primarily

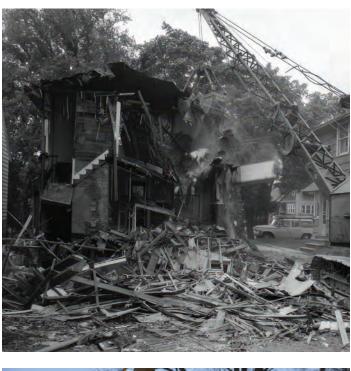
through African American neighborhoods. People were given four months and had to fight for minimal relocation expenses.

"They had nowhere to move because it was prior to the 1968 Fair Housing Act. They couldn't live very many places in Lansing," said Castanier. "Most of them were steered to the southside where many live today."

African American businesses were forced to close and unable to obtain financing to reopen. Schools were disrupted and many churches ended up closing in the upheaval.

The Historical Society in cooperation with the city of Lansing utilized a \$38,000 grant from the National Parks Service to tell the I-496 story. The grant required the group to conduct 20 oral histories of people who were impacted by the project. The group conducted 80 oral histories involving more than 100 people. Ken Turner (videographer) and Adolph Burton (interviewer) who lived in the neighborhood did an expert job of conducting the interviews. The oral histories will be available for people to view at the Capital Area District Library. Michigan State University and the Library of Michigan.

"They touch the soul, said Castanier. "The oral histories were so compelling we decided to meld them into a documentary."





HGSL used the city of Lansing's Media Center and the editing talents of Craig Derek Jones who wove the oral histories into a documentary, telling to story from the start to the finish.

"It is pretty gripping," said Castanier. "That is what we wanted to accomplish. We wanted people laugh, cry and be thoughtful about it. That is what happened."

The documentary made its debut in two showings attended by 600 people at the Lansing Media Center on July 9. Craig Derek Jones received a standing ovation at the conclusion.

An advisory committee of more than 30 community members selected by Mayor Andy Schor assisted in the endeavor, providing oversight and consultation to the many volunteers who worked on the project.

Visit lansinghistory.org for more information.

# State Funds Save Moore's Park Pool

n iconic city of Lansing landmark that enriched the lives of thousands of children and families for nearly 100 years will be restored thanks to funds that were included in the latest state budget. The budget included \$6.2 million for the restoration of the Moores Park Pool on the city's south side. The historic pool was designed by Lansing city engineer, Wesley Bintz, who went on to build over 150 of his signature above-ground public pools across the country. Moores Park Pool is the oldest surviving of the dozen or so remaining Bintz pools. The pool opened in 1922 and was closed in 2019. Supporters of the Moores Park Pool say the funding should enable the pool to return to its former glory.

"Besides the nostalgia for the decades of people who swam in this pool when they were children, even more important are the children today who haven't ever learned to swim because there aren't many public pools anymore. Now they will have that opportunity," said Dale Schrader, representative for The Friends of Moores Park Pool.



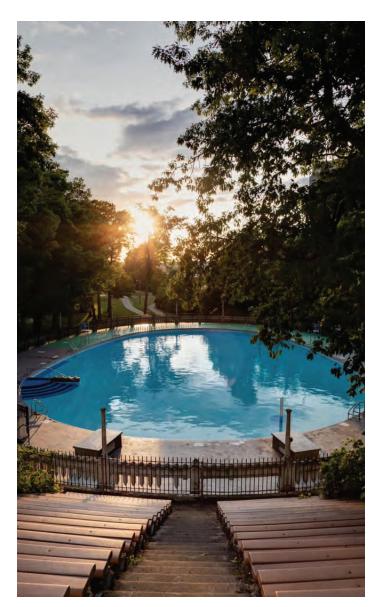
Schrader

In 2020, The Friends of Moores Park Pool and Preservation Lansing conducted a fundraising drive to help the city of Lansing fund an assessment report. 350 people contributed \$40,000 to the effort. The report has been used as a guide for the restoration process.

Schrader believes the historic pool is not only important for the neighborhood, but if it is properly promoted, it could be a destination for people beyond the city of Lansing, drawing people from around the state and nation. He says the unique design of the pool is part of the lure. It is built onto a hillside with a picture postcard view of the Grand River, Moores Park, and beyond to the three iconic smokestacks of the Eckert Power plant. The pool itself is shaped like an upside-down derby hat. Inside the walls, underneath the derby brim, are the pool locker rooms and other amenities.

Schrader is grateful for the entire Capitol Caucus in the state legislature for their support particularly State Senator Sarah Anthony, chair of the Senate Appropriations committee.

"Without her, I am not sure this would have happened," said Schrader. "Sen. Anthony grew up in that Moore's Park neighborhood and she swam in that pool. Her efforts have been instrumental in this process."





#### **#LOVELANSING**

# Reviving the Michigan Walk of Fame

he Michigan Walk of Fame began in 2007 to honor Michigan residents, past or present, who made significant contributions to the state or nation in the arts and humanities, science, education, sports, and other fields. There were two classes inducted into the Walk of Fame, with twelve members of the inaugural 2007 class and twelve members of the 2008 class. Plagues were built and installed into the sidewalks along Washington Square, spread out along the street with the thought that over time the gaps would be filled in with stars honoring additional inductees. As the Great Recession hit, focus shifted elsewhere and the Walk of Fame organization soon dissolved, leaving the current plagues here and there along Washington Square with most people unaware the Walk of Fame exists.

Michigan Walk of Fame, Inc. is being formed to revive the Walk of Fame. The revival of the Walk of Fame would replace the current 23 stars with new, more attractive and durable plaques in the shape of the state, plan for a new class of inductees in 2023, and make the Walk of Fame a more interactive experience via a mobile app that provides visitors with additional written, audio and visual information about the inductees.

Selecting and honoring new inductees will engage people throughout Michigan and give downtown Lansing an exciting annual event that will generate economic impact. Through earned media, a website, school essay contest, and other means, Michiganders will be able to nominate, learn about, and vote on potential inductees.

To revive the Walk of Fame, Michigan Walk of Fame, Inc. is seeking sponsorships and donations from individuals, businesses, community groups, and government to make this concept a reality. Funding is needed for the following:

- · Removal and replacement of current plaques (23)
- Building and maintaining a website
- Creating a Michigan Walk of Fame mobile app
- Nomination process for 2023 Michigan Walk of Fame Class
- Fabrication and installation of 12 new plaques for 2023 inductees
- Public events (inductee ceremony and a private event as well as a fundraising ceremony for future inductee classes)







The Lansing Regional Chamber of Commerce congratulates **Child and Family Charities** for the grand opening of the Jackson House Youth Home. The house is open to serve as a long-term, transitional living, and short-term emergency shelter for children and families in the Lansing area. Many local leaders were present for the celebratory ribbon-cutting event on June 8.



Congratulations to **Saroki's Crispy Chicken & Pizza** on the grand opening of their Haslett location. Their menu includes New York style pizza, Cajun fried chicken, hand-battered chicken tenders, seafood, subs and more.



Congratulations to **Eaton Community Bank** on their grand opening at 1390 W. Lake Lansing Rd in East Lansing! Eaton Community Bank is committed to providing personal and business banking solutions to help you and your family plan for the future.

Business professionals from the Greater Lansing area gathered together to make new connections at the Lansing Regional Chamber June Member Mixer hosted at **MSUFCU.** 



Congratulations to **Age at Home Therapy** in Okemos for celebrating their grand opening at a ribbon-cutting ceremony! Age at Home Therapy provides outpatient physical therapy with a mission to help aging Seniors remain at home where they can maintain their independence.



Congratulations to **Walmart** in Delta Township on their re-grand opening! Walmart associates celebrated and honored their hardworking employees with community members for their years of service and their help investing \$6.3 million into the Delta Township store for updates. Ele's Place, Friends of the Grand Ledge Library and Catholic Charities of Michigan received donations for their contributions for our communities.



Congratulations to **Junk in the Trunk** at 10180 West Grand River Hwy for their ribbon-cutting ceremony in Grand Ledge! With a passion for vintage finds and being eco-friendly, Audra Ellis combined both loves to start Junk In the Trunk to help people declutter while giving back to the community. Junk In The Trunk's mission is to save as much from landfills as possible.



On May 24, the Lansing Regional Chamber relaunched its annual **Pints & Politics** event hosted at Kelly's Downtown. With a strong turnout from members and elected officials from state and local government, the evening was filled with engaging discussions, great spirits, and networking opportunities. Thank you to our sponsors for making this event possible. The LRCC's next Pints & Politics event will be hosted this Fall.

# PROTECTING THE PLANET IS GOOD BUSINESS

In recent years, the concept of sustainability has **gained broader support in the business world**. Business leaders are increasingly **realizing the power of sustainable business strategies** in not only addressing the world's most pressing challenges but **driving their firms' success.** Simply put, **sustainability is good for business.** 

Sustainability is also critical for any organization concerned about its ability to attract and retain talent. 40% of millennials have taken a job because of a company's sustainability credentials and would take a pay cut to work at an environmentally responsible business. As millennials make up the largest proportion of the workforce, not delivering on important sustainability credentials could mean you fail to attract top talent.

FOCUS Magazine spoke with leaders at seven organizations in the region to gain insight into their sustainability initiatives.

#### Consumers Energy: A Sustainable Energy Future for Michigan

In 2021, Consumers Energy made a sweeping proposal to be an industry leader in sustainability through accelerating the planned closures of all of their coalfired generating facilities. Their Clean Energy Plan, which relies on more renewable energy sources like solar and wind will help Consumers reach their zero coal and net zero carbon goals. The company will eliminate the use of coal by 2025 – 15 years earlier than planned allowing them to achieve their net zero carbon emission goal by 2040. A large part of that is due to massive investments in renewable energy sources.



WIMMER

"It also comes from significant internal efforts to ensure efficiency and reliability," said Tracy Wimmer, media relations specialist, Consumers Energy.

Those efforts include investing in new technologies, like the addition of Automatic Transfer Reclosers, which is a device placed on lines that isolates problems on electric lines and automatically transfers power.

"We are also working with customers to reduce their energy usage overall," said Wimmer. "That's not only residential but business customers as well. It saves money for them and it's better for the environment."

Consumers' Clean Energy Plan calls for more reliance on clean energy such as solar, wind and batteries. The company is having ongoing conversations with property owners and communities across the state to help them understand there is a huge financial benefit for them to site large scale solar or wind projects.

"A lot of those projects can take a long time to develop, but because we already have several projects across the state, people are starting to see those benefits in real time," said Wimmer. "It is only going to get easier from here."

Consumers Energy is also a national leader in supporting the transition to electric vehicles (EV). The company has expanded its EV team to help customers better understand rebates for which they are qualified. The Consumers team also helps EV purchasers understand how to charge their vehicles and find charging stations near work or while on vacation.

"We are also working with local communities across the state to get more public charging stations installed," said Wimmer. "Our team is also working with large business customers on how and when to make the transition to electric vehicles."

Wimmer also attributed careful planning and a dedicated team to Consumers Energy's ability to successfully implement one of the most aggressive clean energy plans in the country.

#### Dart Container: All In for Innovative Sustainability

"The equipment in the Vertical has enabled us to vet the compostability and recyclability for new products against APR and ASTM standards throughout the development process so we can ensure our products can have a Next Life," said Westerfield.

For decades, Dart has been a leader in providing and promoting access to recycling programs for food and beverage packaging. Since 1998, Dart has recycled more than 21 million pounds of post-consumer foam and the company worked with the Foodservice Packaging Institute to create a coalition that awards grants to communities working to offer foam recycling programs. Since 2015, over 8 million additional residents in the U.S. and Canada can recycle foam polystyrene as a result. Visit **www.RecycleFoam.org** to learn more.

As a global leader in manufacturing in the food and beverage packaging industry, Dart Container's customers around the world count on them for innovation in creating a growing set of products and services that meet their needs. The Dart team takes action on initiatives that reduce or eliminate the impact their products and practices have on neighborhoods, towns and the planet. Dart developed its "All IN" strategy to invest in innovative sustainability programs that inspire others to take action.

"We are designing products that will provide superior function at an affordable price in their first life and are designed for recovery in their next life whether it be through composting or recycling," said Michael Westerfield, Dart Container Corporation's vice president of Sustainability.

Dart has a long history of foam

recycling and other sustainability-focused actions and is continually looking to do more. In 2019, Dart invested \$30 million in a technical and innovation center, where research and development teams are focused on developing new products that meet their First Use Next Life™ criteria. This center, called the Vertical, consolidates Dart's engineering staff and capabilities to foster collaboration among employees in concert with customers and vendors.





WESTERFIELD

Dart also invests in recovery solutions for virtually all of the products the company produces whether they are made with paper or plastic and whether they need to be composted or recycled. Dart also invests in litter mitigation solutions like a storm water capture device grant program administered by the Council of the Great Lakes Region.

#### DTE: Bold Goals for a Clean Energy Future

DTE Electric unveiled its CleanVision Integrated Resource Plan in 2022. The plan calls for the company to dramatically increase renewable energy and storage, hasten the retirement of its last two coal plants, and accelerate carbon emission reduction goals. DTE Gas plans to achieve net zero greenhouse gas emissions through an innovative plan that includes both its suppliers and customers by 2050.

# Sustainability: Protecting the Planet is Good Business

LAPEER SOLAR PARK IN LAPEER, MICH. THE 48 MW PROJECT WAS BROUGHT ONLINE IN 2017 AND HAS 200,000 SOLAR PANELS GENERATING ENOUGH CLEAN ENERGY TO POWER 11,000 HOMES.

"When DTE Electric's plan is adopted, we will be on track to reduce our carbon emissions from power generation by 65 percent by 2028," said Shawn Patterson, vice president, environmental management and safety, DTE. "In just five short years coal will be a minimal part of our generating portfolio. By 2035 we will be out of coal altogether and we will have reduced our emissions by 85 percent."

DTE's renewable energy portfolio currently includes 20 wind parks and 33 solar parks, all located in Michigan. DTE's proposed plan would generate an additional 15,400 MW of renewable energy by 2042, which will be over 60% of the utility's energy mix and is equivalent to powering approximately 4 million homes.



PATTERSON

DTE has also created some innovative

products to help business and residential customers meet their own sustainability goals. DTE Electric customers who enroll in the company's MIGreenPower program can attribute up to 100% of their electricity use to Michigan wind and solar energy projects.

"It is also proven to be beneficial from an economic development standpoint," said Patterson. "Companies increasingly want to know they have access to renewable energy. When they are looking to site big projects, they want to know they can fulfill their own sustainable goals."

DTE's renewable projects are generating more than clean energy; they are also helping strengthen Michigan's economy. Communities around the state are receiving added tax revenue and those who participate in the projects benefit from the extra revenue those projects provide. Their renewable projects also offer additional, local employment opportunities before, during and after a project is built.

A big part of DTE's sustainability commitment is to make the transition away from coal and still help communities that have depended on jobs from the plants that are being shut down.

"Sustainable communities are important to us too," said Patterson. "We are working very hard with those communities to ensure that these assets are turned over in a way that helps economic development for them."

## Friedland Industries: One of the Region's First Green Recycling Companies

Friedland Industries' tradition dates back to when David Friedland, a Jewish Latvian immigrant, settled in Lansing, MI. Due to lack of jobs available for Jews at the time, he began peddling scrap metal, paper, and rags from local industry and items thrown away by the public. There was value to these items as they were recycled by steel and paper mills. David's formal scrap yard, Friedland Iron & Metal, opened to the public in 1890 at the corner of Maple and Center Streets, where Friedland's processing plant is located today.

Friedland Industries processes and packages all ferrous (containing iron) and non-ferrous metals, all grades of paper, some commercial grade plastics, and electronic scrap. Friedland also performs confidential shredding and product destruction services.

"We collect, segregate, and package these commodities to mill specifications so they can be remelted or repulped into new sheets of metal or paper to be used in the manufacturing process," said Joel Conn, President, Friedland Industries.

Friedland services industrial customers and they are also open to the public. Typical customers would be manufacturers that make products out of metal or print shops that generate scrap paper.

"We provide complete scrap and recycling management programs to reduce companies' waste expense and provide a form of revenue for the commodities they are generating," said Conn. "We also collect scrap from your everyday community member that may have an old washer and dryer or a plumbing contractor that may have copper tubing from a recent job."



Over the last eight years, Friedland has invested millions of dollars in new trucks, containers, processing equipment, facilities, and employees.

"In 2020, during the height of the pandemic, we completed a new expansion to our warehouse and processing plant which added eight new loading docks (for a total of 20), an additional 13,000 SF of finished



CONN

goods storage and processing space, and two new jobs," said Conn.

Since Friedland's inception, community has been at the center of what they do. The company created the annual Scrapfest event (www.scrapfest.com) in Old Town which began as a scrap metal artwork competition, and has grown into a full art festival that focuses on up-cycled and repurposed artwork. Friedland also sponsors an annual Document Destruction month celebrating the end of Tax Day. The public — companies, organizations, and individuals alike — are welcome to bring their sensitive documents and hard drives to Friedland, and they will confidentially shred them for a \$5 donation to a charitable cause.

## **ITC Holdings: For the Greater Grid**

Based in Novi, MI, ITC Holdings Corp. is the largest independent electricity transmission company in the United States. The company believes environmental stewardship begins at home as reflected in its awardwinning Novi headquarters campus which encompasses 92 acres featuring a naturalized transmission corridor, diverse woodlands, open green space, wetlands, a nature trail and a large pond. ITC maintains the grounds using sustainable environmental principles involving employees, the local community and educational outreach programs. ITC also integrates a sustainable approach to the environment in its daily work, serving most of lower Michigan plus seven other states.



"We've implemented a recycling and waste reduction program and

installed rain gardens to absorb storm runoff," said Kwafo Adarkwa, director of public affairs, ITC Holdings Corp. "We've also enabled habitat projects that support wildlife and biodiversity on our grounds. This environmental stewardship also applies to transmission projects that we are building around the state."

When planning transmission projects, ITC reviews environmental assessments and applies best practices for wetlands, threatened and endangered species and other sensitive habitats. By incorporating these factors in the beginning of a project, they can adjust the placement or timing of construction to avoid, or limit, the environmental impact.

Trees and high-voltage power lines are a hazardous combination. ITC maintains an integrated vegetation management program to ensure electric reliability and public safety.

"We have foresters and other trained field staff that routinely inspect our transmission corridors where they look to identify both compatible and incompatible vegetation species," said Adarkwa. "We're not saying don't plant anything ever around the lines, but you want to have compatible species in those areas."

# Sustainability: Protecting the Planet is Good Business

In 2014, ITC implemented a Fleet Vehicle Idle Policy designed to reduce operational costs, decrease adverse environmental impacts, and further ITC's commitment to responsible business practices by reducing idling by 10 minutes per day per vehicle.

"We are saving an estimated 27,000 gallons of fuel and reducing air pollutants by 240 metric tons annually," said Adarkwa. "We are also starting to retrofit vehicles with a job site management system (JSMS), which switches to battery technology when the vehicle is in idle mode and runs ancillary features like vehicle lighting and heating and cooling." From August 2022-Decemeber 2022, the implementation of the JSMS system resulted in an additional savings of 1,000 gallons of gasoline and a reduction of 11 tons of greenhouse gas emissions.

"This is one of the better programs in the country and is one that others in the utility space are beginning to adopt," said Adarkwa.

#### Lansing Board of Water & Light: Utility of Today, Transforming Tomorrow

The Lansing Board of Water & Light (BWL) announced last year the company would be embarking on a new journey they have dubbed "Utility of Today, Transforming Tomorrow."

"What that means is that we are a safe, affordable utility delivering reliable service by an engaged, diverse workforce with cutting-edge skills committed to the community, driving economic growth and leading environmental stewardship," said Dick Peffley, general manager, BWL.

BWL has been a leader in a commitment to environmental stewardship and has successfully ceased coal generation in Lansing. To achieve these goals, BWL



PEFFLEY

expanded investments in solar and wind energy, ramped-up energy efficiency programming, and implemented new technologies that help customers manage their energy needs.

In 2007, BWL became the first utility of the State of Michigan to adopt a renewable energy portfolio. 16 years later, BWL has an impressive portfolio of renewables including 100 MW of solar. The 24 MW Delta Township solar array is one of the largest tracking in the state. BWL also owns 67 MW of wind energy between projects in Ithaca and Oscola county.

"That puts us on track to have 50% clean energy by 2030," said Peffley.

BWL has also adopted a number of aggressive energy efficiency programs, involving residential, commercial and industrial customers. BWL has consistently exceeded state

"Sustainability is also critical for any organization concerned about its ability to attract and retain talent. 40% of millennials have taken a job because of a company's sustainability credentials and would take a pay cut to work at an environmentally responsible business." mandates requiring that energy efficiency results equal at least one percent of retail sales. BWL expects to be at double that level by 2024.

While BWL has ceased coal-generated electricity, they are expanding their generating portfolio to meet long-term energy needs in the region. Delta Energy Park (DEP), BWL's newest natural gasfired power plant began operations in 2022 and is helping BWL achieve its clean energy goals and support economic growth in the region. DEP is very TRITERRA SERVED AS ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANTS FOR THE METRO PLACE APARTMENTS IN DOWNTOWN LANSING.

> proposed development projects. Triterra's goal is to make sure that in communities properties that are currently unutilized are redeveloped and become tax generating for the local government.

"Our goal is to get these properties back on the market," said McNabb. "We want to see them have long-term sustainable use that is productive for the community."

Development interest and protecting natural resources are often in conflict. Natural resources, including forests, wetlands, and fresh water ecosystems, often provide the setting for private and commercial development as well as a location to escape and enjoy recreational activities. Our society's activities inevitably impact soil, water quality, cultural resources, riparian areas, wildlife, and the overall aesthetics of these ecosystems. Triterra seeks to first understand the goals of the developer and help them plan a project around any concerns that are on their property.

"At the same time, we want to do what we can to help balance these scenarios," said McNabb. "Everything in the natural environment is important to the long-term sustainable use of our community. We have to make sure that we are not doing something that creates an issue by jeopardizing what is already there."

Each project has its own mitigation strategy. When evaluating a project plan, Triterra will screen a property for environmental hazards and find ways to balance or mitigate those hazards to an acceptable standard that is protective of human health and the environment.

"We try to mitigate destroying habitat for wildlife much as trying to protect wetlands because they play a vital part of our surroundings," said McNabb. "We want to have these natural areas present so everyone in the community can enjoy them, as well."

nimble at starting up and shutting down.

"A coal plant takes 8 hours to start-up to generate energy," said Peffley. "DEP can be active in 20 minutes. Being a natural gas plant, it is also much cleaner."

DEP and BWL also played a significant role in helping the region land General Motors/Ultium \$2.6 billion Electric Vehicle Battery Plant, which will keep the utility and the region at the forefront of the electric vehicle revolution.

"We want to continue to promote economic growth and do it in an environmentally friendly and smart way," said Peffley.

#### Triterra: Creating Healthier Communities

Triterra is a Michigan-based, environmental consulting firm with offices in Lansing, Grand Rapids, and Alma. The company's professional staff has more than 100 years of experience and a proven track record in the environmental sciences, having completed numerous property due diligence, contaminant investigation/ remediation, and brownfield-related



MCNABB

projects. Triterra provides their environmental expertise to businesses, developers, private real estate owners, and municipalities facing environmental risks, responsibilities, and/or development opportunities.

"Our goal is to create healthier communities in which we can live, work and play," said Don McNabb, CEO & visionary, Triterra. "We don't want to hinder development, but we don't want to destroy the surrounding environment either."

Brownfield properties present unique challenges for

# Sustainability: Protecting the Planet is Good Business



# Lansing BWL Announces Plans for 650MW of Clean Energy

The Lansing Board of Water & Light (BWL) announced its plan to build over 650 megawatts (MW) of clean energy projects to support its clean energy goals and meet future

regional load growth. These clean energy projects will be complemented by a new 110MW Reciprocating Internal Combustion Engines (RICE) gas plant on the site of Delta Energy Park for flexible capacity to be completed by 2026, and a possible additional gas plant at a location to be determined later dependent on future load requirements and regional energy regulations. All of these projects and costs are still under negotiations with the proposed developers and are subject to change pending contract agreements.

The clean energy projects are expected to be complete between 2025-2027, and include:

- 160MW of battery storage
- 65MW of local solar
- 195MW of additional solar outside of the Lansing region
- 238MW of wind outside of the Lansing region
- Continued growth of energy waste reduction, as well as expansion into demand response programs for customers

The portfolio will bring a capital investment of approximately \$750 million and is expected to be finished in the next 10 years. The projects are the result of BWL's All Source Request for Proposals (RFP), which



received 96 offers totaling 8,330MW.

"Once implemented, this will bring BWL's total generational portfolio to around 58 percent renewable and

reduce our carbon footprint by 75 percent compared to 2005," said BWL General Manager Dick Peffley. "This continues to position BWL as a leader in the State of Michigan as a clean energy provider, and puts us on the path to carbon neutrality by 2040."

As part of Governor Gretchen Whitmer's "MI Healthy Climate Plan," which calls for 1,000MW of energy storage by 2025, this portfolio would supply 16 percent of the state's energy storage goal even though the BWL only supplies 6 percent of the state's total energy.

BWL received \$12 million from the Michigan Public Service Commission to support building 10MW of solar and 40MW of 4-hour battery storage on the Delta Energy Park site.

"This is the largest planned growth in BWL's nearly 140 year history and ensures we're able to provide our customers with reliable and affordable energy for decades to come," said Peffley.

The BWL has approximately 100,000 electric customers, 58,000 water customers, 155 steam customers and 19 chilled water customers. For more information about the BWL's current energy portfolio, visit www.lbwl.com.

# State Legislature Passes Housing Coalition Bills

he Lansing Regional Chamber of Commerce (LRCC) is part of several housing coalitions focused on both statewide and regional solutions to continue to support future growth and development. Housing is one area that members have told the LRCC they would like the organization to engage with in 2023. Most recently, the State Legislature passed several bills that were led by the statewide Michigan Housing Coalition of which LRCC is a part of.

The Michigan Senate concurred with the house change to Senate Bills 129 – 132 to allow for tax increment financing to support housing development activities with bipartisan support. \$5M was appropriated to be made available for grants to local units of government who adopt pro-housing zoning reforms (such as through a master plan process or zoning text amendments). The Michigan Economic Development Corporation's Redevelopment Ready Communities program is expected to administer the funds.

The Michigan Housing Coalition is already receiving critical questions on both efforts and will be working to



get them answered and out to interested communities, builders and developers.

Up next for the Michigan Housing Coalition will be its work on a bipartisan zoning workgroup this summer to look at ways to move the state forward.

For more information on the Michigan Housing Coalition visit **housingmichigan.weebly.com.** ●

# Saving money. Saving the planet.

The Unitarian Universalist Church of Greater Lansing completed a lighting project to not only reduce their electric bill but also take care of the planet. LED bulbs are safer and last longer than fluorescent bulbs which contain mercury. BWL's Hometown Energy Savers program provided incentives to get the project completed sooner.

"We are committed to the health of the planet, and so installing light sources that lack toxic substances and have a very long lifespan is important to us."

- Steve Pueppke, UU Building Coordinator





Contact us to learn more: 800-573-3503 • Ibwl.com/energysavers



# State Lawmakers Approve Funding for Key Projects in the Greater Lansing Region

The Greater Lansing region secured a major victory in the recently approved state budget as lawmakers approved funding for critical infrastructure and community revitalization projects supported by more than a dozen local organizations including the Lansing Regional Chamber of Commerce (LRCC). Several projects approved by state lawmakers were part of the Capital



Daman

Region Improvement Support Package (CRISP) that was developed by regional partners. Among local projects and funding amounts approved by the legislature were:

- \$40 million toward helping fund construction of a new Lansing City Hall
- \$40 million toward new Lansing housing projects
- \$50 million in road and water infrastructure projects in Clinton, Eaton, and Ingham Counties
- \$9.4 million for roadway improvements
- \$5 million toward Lansing Center renovations
- \$5 million towards construction of the Michigan Joint Training Innovation Center
- \$1.7 million toward Lansing Riverfront
- \$1 million ongoing state support for downtown Lansing

"We are elated to have received funding for these projects that combined are truly game-changers for the Lansing area," said Tim Daman, president & CEO, LRCC. "We owe a debt of gratitude to our local lawmakers in the Capitol Caucus who once again worked in a bipartisan



Showers

Anthony







Witwer



Noll-Williams

fashion to fight for and win approval for their critical infrastructure projects."

Pingston

In recognition of the critical importance that a thriving downtown in our capital city means to the region and the state, the local coalition developed CRISP, which included funding requests from the state of Michigan for projects and services that will revitalize Lansing's central city. Passage of the projects contained in CRISP are anticipated to enhance growth coming to our region in the next few years. Below are statements from





regional partners and the Chairs of the Senate and House Appropriations Committee:

"We are very proud of the way the region came together and worked collaboratively in a bipartisan way to support and secure these important projects," said Robert Showers, CAPCOG member and chair of the Clinton County Board of Commissioners. "The projects in the CRISP package will provide further growth opportunities throughout the region."

"This budget represents the priorities of the City of Lansing and our needs for the future as the Capital City. While we continue to struggle with state employees working from home, the millions of dollars in this budget will allow us to work our plan to create more housing for residents downtown while recreating and increasing the vibrancy of our city both in daytime and after work hours. It will also allow us to finally move to a new city hall and reuse the current city hall site in a way that will help reinvigorate our downtown. Lansing has historically been underfunded compared to other areas of the state. I thank our Representatives and Senators, especially Appropriation Chairs Anthony and Witwer, for ensuring equity for Lansing and Lansing area residents in this budget," said Lansing Mayor Andy Schor.

"Lansing is more than Michigan's capital city — it's a critical hub of the future automotive industry. In order to build on the success of GM's massive investment, we need to continue to make the capital region attractive and vibrant for people and businesses alike," said state Rep. Angela Witwer (Delta Township), chair of the House Appropriations Committee. "I'm dedicated to ensuring that we have vibrant communities, good roads, updated water infrastructure and site-ready opportunities to secure more good-paying jobs in the immediate future and beyond."

"Last week, the legislature passed a budget that prioritizes people over special interests, which will have a particularly positive impact on the mid-Michigan region," said State Senator Sarah Anthony (D-Lansing). "Since the beginning, I've prioritized meeting with local elected officials, community leaders, and constituents to craft a budget that our region can be proud of. In doing so, our budget makes historic investments in our small businesses, public infrastructure, and our workers while remaining fiscally responsible and implementing enhanced transparency measures."

"The Greater Lansing Convention & Visitors Bureau was pleased to advocate collectively for funding that will impact the entire region including the tourism and hospitality industry. The budget allocation for the Lansing Center, Jackson Field, riverfront development, trail expansions, the Capital Region International Airport as well as specific funding to attract larger conventions and events to the community and to support CVB marketing will go a long way to continue to grow the tourism economy in the region," said Julie Pingston, president and CEO of the Greater Lansing Convention & Visitors Bureau.

"We are excited about the historic amount of state funding for a number of critical projects in mid-Michigan that are important for the region's continued economic growth and development, including the \$9.4 million the airport received for roadway improvements that are crucial to support continued land utilization and development opportunities at the airport," said Nicole Noll-Williams, president and CEO of the Capital Region Airport Authority.



# Special Education Millage November 7 Ballot

School districts are mandated by law to provide special education programs and services. Without adequate, dedicated special education funding, local and intermediate school districts are forced to use general education funds to pay for special education programs and services. The proposed millage would help offset the amount taken from general education to support special education.

- If approved, the millage would generate approximately **\$3 million each year for 10 years.**
- The cost to homeowners in Eaton County would be approximately \$7.50 per month/\$90 per year for a home with a market value of \$200,000 (with a taxable value of \$100,000).
- Eaton RESA and local districts have been supporting students with special needs since 1985 when the special education millage was approved by voters.
- Nearly 15% of students, across all local districts, receive some form of special education services.
- If approved, millage funds could support students, purchase equipment and decrease the amount of general education funds that are being used to supplement special education costs allowing funds to instead support programs and services including robotics and mental health supports.

For more information, visit www.eatonresa.org.







This ad is paid for by Eaton RESA, 1790 East Packard Highway, Charlotte, MI.

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# Three New Apprentices Join Bekum America's Award-Winning Apprenticeship Program

ekum America's Apprenticeship program has been working for nearly three decades to provide young people interested in skilled trades, with the education and experience they need for the future. Bekum recently accepted three new apprentices to begin the four-year award-winning program.

The apprenticeship program works to mold apprentices into talented Journeymen through hands-on experience at Bekum America, working for 8000 total hours and completing 59 credits of college level courses at Lansing Community College, provided by Bekum. Once the apprentice completes the program, they receive a Journeyman's certificate from the US Department of Labor (DOL).

"We are thrilled to welcome young talented students into our award-winning Apprenticeship Program," said Steve London, president and Chief Operating Officer. "Many of our best employees started out in this program, and we look forward to seeing our new apprentices learn and become leaders in the industry."

This year, Timothy Calhoun joined the program in the Machinist discipline, Ashton Gauthier signed on in the electrical discipline and Jason Szilagyi joined in the

machine builder discipline. For the next four years, they will receive on-site training and begin working towards a degree. When they complete the program, these young people will be DOL Registered Journeymen and have no student loan debt. Many graduates of this program decide to continue to pursue an undergraduate degree while continuing a full-time position at Bekum America.

"Bekum's Apprenticeship Program was an awesome opportunity," said Glen Hile, one of the first graduating apprentices in the program. "The opportunity to get a free education with no debt appealed to me. I was able to start my adult life with a stable income and even bought my first house at 20."

Bekum established its Apprenticeship Program in 1994. In May of 2000, it graduated the two youngest, active journeymen in the United States. Since the program's inception, 69 apprentices have come through the program, with 15 apprentices currently in the program, including those newly signed, and 16 graduates actively employed at Bekum.

For more information about Bekum America's apprenticeship program, visit bekumamerica.com/ careers/apprenticeships.

**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.





# Wilson Talent Center Commemorates 50th Anniversary with Car Show

By Micki O'Neil, Chief Communications Officer, Ingham Intermediate School District

hen you love your work, it has a positive impact on those around you, especially as a teacher. The 2022-23 school year marked the 50th anniversary of offering Career & Technical Education (CTE) programs at the Wilson Talent Center (WTC), operated by Ingham Intermediate School District. Teachers and staff wanted something meaningful to commemorate the occasion. Scott Westenberg, WTC Automotive Technology Instructor, was talking with mentor and long-time friend, Larry Button, former Automotive Technology Instructor at St. Johns High School, and the idea of a car show formed.

Westenberg pitched the idea to his WTC colleagues, administration, and business advisory committee. The program's Business Advisory Committee Chair, Casey Jacobsen, offered to have LaFontaine Automotive Group serve as the title sponsor. The team then rallied local automakers, suppliers, and alumni to promote and sponsor the event. The June car show brought in nearly 200 vehicles. Those who attend car shows know this is a great response from the community. What had greater significance was more than 50% of those pre-registered were former students. Two alumni drove 500 hundred miles, one from Tennessee in a 1968 Mustang and the other from Arizona in a 1999 Firebird.

While commemorating the 50th anniversary is important, the relationships between education, community and business are the real story. Westenberg is one of many CTE teachers who have a lasting and positive impact on students. After working in the automotive industry, he decided to become a CTE teacher and has been teaching for over 30 years, remaining current with automotive trends, and partnering with businesses. Anyone who sees him at work recognizes that he absolutely loves teaching.

CTE programming continues to evolve with the changing needs of industry and our business partnerships are critical to student and program success. Traditional CTE programs, such as Automotive Technology, are still offered at the WTC as programming continues to expand in high demand fields such as bioscience, healthcare, cybersecurity, criminal justice, and information technology. Jacobsen, LaFontaine Grassroots Marketing Manager shared, "Working with the Automotive Technology Program has been a great partnership for the LaFontaine Automotive Group. The collaboration between WTC teachers and our Lansing LaFontaine dealership managers has brought great insight into automotive industry needs and trends into the classroom. Providing career direction through education and business is a beautiful gift to give. We look forward to continuing our partnership with the WTC!"



Often times, teachers do not recognize the long-term impact they have on students, nor do businesses understand how they can be part of K-12 talent development. Through this anniversary event, WTC staff and business partners were able to see the impact they have made through a center that has served thousands. CTE programs offer the best of both worlds, education integrated with industry knowledge and experiences. This event was a labor of love between staff, teachers, business partners, alumni, and the community, who all support young talent as they step into their future.

For more information or to get involved visit www.inghamisd.org/wtc. ●



On June 14, the ATHENA Women's Interest Network (WIN) Executive Connections 2.0 group took a field trip to Detroit with an exciting agenda for a full day! This group of female Lansing leaders met with some amazing women and learned what for-profit and nonprofit organizations are doing to make Detroit a better place to live. They met with a variety of organizations which included education on affordable housing, advancing community, coats for the homeless and the value of beauty and recreation in a city.





ATHENA WIN hosted an interesting and informative discussion during its Professional Growth & Development Series on June 28. Led by Alyse Munishamaiah, associate director of outreach, business & community engagement at Central Michigan University, attendees talked through the five generations in the workplace and learned to recognize generational differences.

ATHENA WIN hosted its Cirls' Night Out Meet-Up Series on June 14. More than 90 attendees signed up for the Cirls' Night Out event to socialize and network with the ATHENA WIN Board and members at Lansing Shuffle.

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#### **NEW HIRES**

**Foster Swift Collins & Smith PC** welcomes two lateral associate hires to the firm. **Dina D. Kashat** joins the Employer Services practice group. She will split her time between the firm's Lansing and Southfield offices. Dina's practice focuses on representing insurance carriers, third party administrators and employers against workers' compensation claims. Reed K. **Powers** joins the firm's Southfield office as a civil litigation attorney, focusing his practice on insurance defense litigation, tort and automobile liability, product liability and general liability matters.



Erik Eikey joins Triterra as an industrial hygienist and is a member of their Industrial Hygiene Management Services team. Eikey conducts hazardous

Eikey

material surveys to identify the presence of asbestos, lead, and mold within building materials. He also conducts on-site air monitoring during asbestos abatement jobs to ensure worker safety and ensure that rules and regulations are being followed.

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records of accounts payable and accounts receivable, but she also assists in preparing reports and cost projections while evaluating operations, recommending best practices, and strategizing solutions so everything runs smoothly.

### **AWARDS**

Sparrow Clinton Hospital,

on behalf of the Merten and Geraldine Whyman Health Careers Scholarship Fund, has awarded \$2,000 scholarships to five Clinton County students pursuing education in a health-related field. 2023 Whyman Scholarship recipients are: Taylor Bierstetel, of Westphalia; Nursing at Davenport University; Erik Keisling, of DeWitt; Biology at Hope College; Faith Lutz, of DeWitt; Biomedical Science at Grand Valley State University; Zachary Pierson, of St. Johns; Pre-Medicine at Grand Valley State University and Lauren Schafer, of Fowler; Exercise Science at Grand Valley State University.

Ngage Management congratulates Sarah Botruff, CTA, event manager, who was granted the Meeting Planning Institute (MPI) Michigan Rising Star Award. This award recognizes an MPI member with five or fewer years of professional experience in the meeting and event industry who has shown exemplary leadership and contributions in their tenure. In addition, after serving on the MPI Leadership Development Committee for the past year, Sarah has joined the MPI MI Board.



Lindsey and Silas Coffelt were awarded the 2023 Social Media Presence award at the National Graze Craze Expo in Florida in June 2023

for exemplary efforts to build the brand through social media platforms. Graze Craze specializes in charcuterie boards and boxes and is located in Okemos.

Sparrow Clinton Hospital is pleased to announce its first BEE Honoree, **Rhonda Fenby-**Morse, a respiratory therapist



with remarkable selflessness and willingness to help others. Fenby-Morse was nominated by multiple caregivers for her collaborative behaviors and support for the team. The award recognizes excellence among non-clinical support caregivers who contribute to Sparrow Clinton's quality compassionate care. The acronym BEE stands for Being Exceptional Every Day.



A caregiver in Sparrow Ionia Hospital's Emergency Department who recently raised the alarm about a child suspected of being in a harmful situation has been honored with the Sparrow Speak Up Award for advocating on behalf of patient and caregiver safety. Patient Access Specialist **DrewAnn** Gladding noticed the child had a black eye and that the father did not know the patient's birthdate or the correct spelling of their name. Gladding immediately contacted an administrator and police. The situation was investigated and authorities determined there was no foul play.

#### DISTINCTIONS

**Sparrow Health System** has again been ranked a national leader for transparency in pricing for care and services and are making it easier than ever to use an innovative and simple new online tool that outlines how much consumers are estimated to pay for common procedures, such as lab and imaging tests. The Price Transparency Report, analyzing more than 5,300 hospitals nationwide, gave Sparrow the highest score possible.

Origami

is pleased

to recognize

MOT, OTRL, DRS, CDI,

CBIS, CDP,

occupational therapist, for

completing

Rehabilitation

Monica Novak,



Novak

the following courses: ADHD and Anxiety: Driving, OT Roles for Driving, and Unlocking the Benefits of Autonomous Vehicles.



Origami Rehabilitation is pleased to recognize Emilie Brzak, MS, OTRL, CBIS, occupational therapist, for recently completing a Principles of Manual Medicine Course through Michigan State University.

Sparrow Eaton Hospital's chief nursing officer has been certified as a Rural Hospital CNO, signifying her special knowledge of issues related to rural health. Tiffany Friar, DNP, MBA, RN, is one of four healthcare professionals in Michigan to complete the Michigan Center for Rural Health program during this section.

MEMBERS ON THE MOVE

May 12, 2023, marked 15 years of business for Netvantage Marketing, a search engine optimization and paid search management consulting company headquartered in East Lansing. Netvantage was founded in 2008 by Managing Partners Joe Ford and **Adam Henige.** The company grew from a single location in East Lansing to a second office in Grand Rapids in 2012. They later opened a Denver office in 2018. They attribute their success and the ability to expand the company to its sole focus on search engine marketing.



Origami Rehabilitation would like to recognize Colette Brzezinski, MS, OTRL, CBIS, for her dedication to continued education and

Brzezinski



sharing her knowledge with others. Brzezinski recently completed a PESI Stroke Rehabilitation Certification course. In addition, she taught the following courses at Western Michigan University: Adult Intervention and Outcomes (Cognition and Vocation) and Older Adult Intervention and Outcomes (Physical Rehab Post Stroke).

Congratulations to **Ngage Management** Association Director, **Scott Herceg, MSML, CAE,** who recently received a Master of Science in Management and Leadership degree from Purdue University Global, part of the Purdue University System.

517 Business and Life, which is produced and published monthly by **M3 Group,** recently earned a gold Hermes Creative Award in the print media/publications category for the magazine's December 2022 issue. The honor comes on the heels of a 2002 platinum MarCom Award that 517 Magazine won earlier this year for print media publications.

### **PEOPLE NEWS**





Yasuoka

Burdette-Comer

Origami Rehabilitation would like to recognize Mika Yasuoka, MA, LLPC, CBIS, mental health supervisor, and Rachel Burdette-Comer, LLMSW, MA, clinical social worker, for sharing their expertise in a recent presentation titled "Crisis Intervention and Verbal De-Escalation."

Origami Rehabilitation is pleased to recognize April Toivonen-Traux, MA, CCC-SLP, CBIS, speechlanguage pathologist for sharing her knowledge and expertise in



Toivonen-Traux



Hannah

Member Annual Meeting on talent acquisition.

#### BOARDS OF DIRECTORS/ EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



First National Bank of Michigan appointed Rachel Michaud to its Board of Directors effective June 16, 2023. Michaud, 52, is the vice president of

Kester So, a

member in the

Lansing office

of **Dickinson** 

Wright, was

appointed chair

Committee of the

American College

of the Member

recently

Selection

Michaud

Gillespie Group headquartered in Lansing. Her responsibilities include oversight of all day-to-day business operations of Gillespie Group, all leases, overall asset management and equity services.



So

two recent presentations titled "Understanding the Brain: Injuries and Helpful Strategies" and "Inspire Attention: An Interdisciplinary Approach."

Origami Rehabilitation would like to recognize Tammy Hannah, president & CEO, for sharing her expertise in a recent presentation at the 501 Alliance's of Bond Counsel. So specializes in municipal finance, where he has served as bond counsel or underwriter's counsel on a wide variety of bond issues.

#### **COMPANY NEWS**



Parks

Congratulations to **Brittany Parks Process Consulting** on the exciting partnership with Interactive Training Systems. This collaboration is a testament to

BPPC's company's reputation for excellence and innovation. With the combined expertise and resources, BPPC has no doubts that their clients will benefit greatly from the enhanced training solutions.

**Sparrow's** partnership with University of Michigan Health is bringing expanded plastic surgery care to Mid-Michigan, including an innovative breast reconstruction procedure that spares muscle and allows for a quicker recovery. The DIEP flap surgery is one example of the leading-edge procedures that will be offered at the new Sparrow practice that are not available anywhere else in the region.

Michigan Flyer passengers are now able to reserve a Hytch-branded minivan to connect with their bus at the East Lansing Marriott, right from—or to—the door of their home, workplace, or another location in the Hytch service area.

McLaren Now+Clinic at Walgreens recognizes the importance of ensuring patients have access to the medications they need, even when away from home. At McLaren Now+Clinic at Walgreens, patients can receive short-term refills for stable chronic conditions. McLaren Now+Clinic is located in the Lansing Walgreens at 410 E Jolly Rd, Lansing, MI 48910 and the Okemos Walgreens located at 2131 W Grand River Ave, Okemos, MI 48864. To schedule an appointment, or to learn more, visit www.mclaren.org/nowclinic.

#### **Mid-Michigan Recovery Services**

announced that, thanks to generous funding led by the Joe D. Pentecost Foundation, it will have a new central office for its work helping people to recover from drug and alcohol disorders. Over the coming months, the nonprofit agency will move administrative staff, outpatient counselors and supporting staff to a building currently used by an information-technology services firm at 316 Moores River Drive. MMRS is purchasing the new building and will add office spaces to accommodate its counseling and administrative staff. In addition to the Pentecost Foundation. other supporters of the project include the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services. Dart Foundation. River Caddis Development and Emergent **BioSolutions**.

#### **Sparrow Forensic Pathology**

**Services** has released its 2022 annual report on deaths in the five counties (Eaton, Ingham, Ionia, Isabella and Shiawassee) in which Sparrow served as Medical Examiner at that time. The report shows accidental and drug-related deaths, along with homicides, down in some local counties. The report also reveals the generosity of local organ donors in 2022. The Office of the Medical Examiner says referrals to connect families wishing to donate organs and tissue to Gift of Life Michigan were up greatly across the five counties, saving and healing hundreds of lives.

#### **Sparrow Health System's** top entities will receive new names that include University of Michigan Health, effective April 1, 2024, as part of Sparrow joining the Michigan Medicine clinical network.

A Grand Ledge baby born weeks prematurely is healthy today because of life-saving care from the pediatric partnership between Sparrow and University of Michigan Health (U-M Health). Born at E.W. **Sparrow Hospital** in Lansing at just 32 weeks in August 2022, Auriya Moore was diagnosed with Duodenal Stenosis, or narrowing of the small intestine which affected her ability to digest food. She required a complex surgery in order to eat. She also had evidence of a structural heart defect and Down syndrome. At six

days old, Auriya was transported to C.S. Mott Children's Hospital in Ann Arbor, where her case was overseen by pediatric surgeon Erin E. Perrone, M.D., a Michigan Medicine physician who also works at Sparrow's Pediatric Subspecialty Clinic. Auyira, who left Sparrow just 30 days after she was born, is now healthy and enjoys eating.



A top **Sparrow** physician and researcher recently spoke to a prestigious national conference about Sparrow's participation in a groundbreaking study of a cancer

Srkalovic

drug for patients with genetic mutations. The results of the phase 2 Targeted Agent and Profiling Utilization Registry (TAPUR) Study were presented by **Gordan Srkalovic, M.D., Ph.D.,** medical director of the Sparrow Herbert-Herman Cancer Center, at the annual American Society of Clinical Oncology meeting. The findings suggest the drug talazoparib may be effective in any cancer that has a BRCA1/2 mutation – which results in uncontrollable cell growth and the inability to repair damaged DNA.



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