

# FOCUS

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

**JUNE 2023**

THE 2023 LANSING REGIONAL  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

## *Annual Dinner*



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LANSING BUILT TO LAST 2023 WINNER: OURSPACE (517)

## 2023 Board of Directors

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**Van Martin / Martin**

**Commercial Properties**

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LANSING REGIONAL CHAMBER

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## LRCC Annual Report: Championing Economic Growth & Prosperity

**W**e are very proud to present our 2022 Annual Report and encourage you to explore it and see how our efforts over the past year have served to champion economic growth and connectivity for the business community in Greater Lansing.

2022 remained a year of economic pressures; with familiar foes like talent along with new challenges in the supply chain and inflation for businesses to navigate. But despite these tests, our business community responded with leadership and innovation.

We cut ribbons for everything from new global tech headquarters to new boutique bakeries. New restaurant concepts have opened in all corners of our community. And the LRCC provided new ways for our members to grow their business, boost connections, and get fresh ideas on issues such as leadership, management, human resources, and marketing.

Our membership engagement team excelled in 2022, welcoming 139 new members and achieving an astounding 90% member retention rate, much higher than the national average. Our communications team continues to grow our communications platforms including FOCUS magazine which had more than 50,000 impressions, our Facebook, Twitter and Linked In platforms, which achieved nearly 2 million engagements and the LRCC website, which realized more than 86,000 total views. Our mission of helping our members effectively connect with other in the business community was aided by our events & programming team which produced 55 events and 35 ribbon cuttings touching more than 6,000 participants!

Our advocacy team also had a stellar year in 2022. The LRC-PAC endorsed candidates in 31 races and realized a 96% success rate in the November elections. Our advocacy efforts also resulted in an unprecedented number of policy successes at the state and local level. LRCC continues to demonstrate regional leadership in many ways, most notably our partnership with the Enterprise Group of Jackson through which the Procurement Technical Assistance Center (PTAC) helped businesses in Ingham, Eaton and Clinton Counties secure federal contracts that created or retained more than 1,700 jobs.

For many years our member surveys have shown that talent attraction and retention is a leading concern for LRCC members. We have responded with numerous talent initiatives which we are proud to report continued to thrive in 2022. The 10 Over the Next Ten awards again selected 10 outstanding young professionals who are making their mark in the region. In May, 36 outstanding leaders completed the 2022-23 Leadership Lansing cohort, bringing to 295 the number of leaders that have completed this program in the past eight years! We are also thrilled with the continued growth of the ATHENA Leadership and ATHENA PowerLink programs and our new partnership with ATHENA WIN which we are certain will elevate that program to new levels.

We are incredibly grateful to all of our employers who continue to invest in the Lansing Regional Chamber of Commerce and support our many strategic initiatives. Your support and engagement provides the foundation for our success.

We thank you for allowing the Lansing Regional Chamber to support your business and provide you with the tools, resources and relationships that help your business and people connect, grow, and thrive! ●



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



**2022 remained a year of economic pressures; with familiar foes like talent along with new challenges in the supply chain and inflation for businesses to navigate. But despite these tests, our business community responded with leadership and innovation.**

## June 2023

6/6

**Business Education Series: SB 504 Loan & Government Contracts**  
**Monday, June 5, from 10 to 11:30 a.m.**  
**Lansing Regional Chamber, 500 E. Michigan Avenue, Suite 200, Lansing**

During this two-presentation dynamic program, you will learn about SBA 504 Loan by the Michigan Certified Development Corporation (MCDC) and Government Contracts by APEX (formerly PTAC Procurement Technical Assistance Centers). APEX accelerators program provides the education and training to ensure that all businesses become capable of participating in federal, state, and local government contracts. MCDC is a non-profit certified by the US SBA to administer the SBA 504 Loan Program in Michigan. The SBA 504 loan provides small businesses with low-rate, long-term loans for building purchases, construction, and machinery and equipment.

**Cost:** The program is offered at no cost.

6/6

**June Lansing Economic Club**  
**Tuesday, June 6 from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.**  
**Kellogg Hotel & Conference Center, 219 South Harrison Road, East Lansing**

The June Lansing Economic Club will welcome Michigan State University's Interim President, Teresa K. Woodruff, P.h.D. Dr. Woodruff will speak about how Michigan State University is leading the region forward through community partnerships and its substantial positive impact on the Greater Lansing region and state.

**Cost:** Tickets are offered at no cost for Lansing Economic Club members, \$55 for Lansing Regional Chamber members, \$75 for future members and a table of eight is \$425.

## Business Roundtables

**LRCC Delta Township-Eaton County Business Roundtable - Wednesday, June 7 from 9 to 10 a.m.**

- Lansing Community College West Campus, 5708 Cornerstone Drive, Lansing

**LRCC Lansing-Delhi Township Business Roundtable - Wednesday, June 14 from 9 to 10 a.m.**

- Lansing Area Safety Council, 809 Center Street, Suite 2A, Lansing

**LRCC East Lansing-Meridian Twp. Business Roundtable - Wednesday, June 21 from 9 to 10 a.m.**

- High Caliber Karting & Entertainment, 1982 W. Grand River Highway, Okemos

6/13

**Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Series**  
**Tuesday, June 13 from 10 to 11:30 a.m.**  
**Lansing Regional Chamber, 500 E. Michigan Avenue, Lansing**

Led by Matthew D. Anderson, Leadership Coach, Ethics Researcher, DEI Bridge, and author of *There's No Such Thing as Right and Wrong*, attendees will explore the steps everyone can take to ensure DEI success.

**Cost:** Tickets are offered at no cost for Lansing Regional Chamber members and \$25 for future members.

6/13

**Member Mixer**  
**Tuesday, June 13 from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m.**  
**MSUFCU, 3777 West Road, East Lansing**

Make new and lasting connections during the June Member Mixer. Join the Lansing Regional Chamber, fellow chamber members, and business professionals in the Greater Lansing area for a night of networking and relationship building.

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

6/14

**Athena Win Girls' Night Out Meet-Up Series**  
**Wednesday, June 14 from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m.**  
**Lansing Shuffle, 325 Riverfront Drive, Lansing**

Join ATHENA WIN at the Lansing Shuffle for the June Girls' Night Out Meet-Up! Connect and network with other professional women in the Greater Lansing area. There will be no formal agenda or registration for this casual networking event.

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

6/26

**LRCC Federal & State Business Roundtable**  
**Monday, June 26 from 11:30 to 12:30 p.m.**  
**Lansing Regional Chamber, 500 E. Michigan Avenue, Lansing**

Senate Appropriations Chair Sarah Anthony will join the Lansing Regional Chamber to discuss issues impacting the business community.

**Cost:** Tickets are offered at no cost for Lansing Regional Chamber members and \$25 for future members.

## Thank You Renewing Members

Abraham & Gaffney, P.C.	GoodFellas Bagel Deli- Capital City Market	Ozone's Brewhouse
Adams Outdoor Advertising	Grabel & Associates	Piper & Gold Public Relations
Apothecary Shop, The	Greater Lansing Open Soccer	PTD Technology
Beggars Banquet	High Five The Drew Stanton Foundation	Public Policy Associates, LLC
Big John Steak & Onion	Kia of Lansing	Rathbun Insurance Agency
Blohm Creative Partners	Lake Lansing Road Mobil Service, Inc.	Recovery Project, The
Brogan, Reed, Van Gorder & Associates - Ohio National Financial	Lansing Entertainment & Public Facilities Authority (LEPFA)	Right at Home of Central Michigan
Byrum Fisk	Lighthouse Party Bus & Limo	Rohde Construction
Cameron Tool Corporation	Markerboard People Inc., The	SET SEG
Capital Area Housing Partnership (CAHP)	Martin Property Development, Inc.	Simplified Accounting & Tax Service, Inc
Century 21 Looking Glass, Inc.	Meridian Mall Office	Small Talk Children's Advocacy Center
Country Club of Lansing	Michigan Certified Development Corporation (MCDC)	Smalley Investments
County Road Association of Michigan	Michigan Princess Riverboat	Specialty Eye Institute
Created2c	Mid-Michigan Mechanical Contractors Association	St. Vincent Catholic Charities
DeBruin Law PLLC	NAI Mid-Michigan	Sweet Encounter Bakery & Cafe
DoorDash	New Leaf Landscaping Company	TechSmith Corporation
Douglas J Companies	Niowave Inc.	Tri-Star Trust Bank
Dykema Gossett	Nothing Bundt Cakes	U.S. Army Recruiting Battalion
East Lansing Public Library		Wendy's - Team Schostak Family Restaurants
Farm Bureau Insurance Company		Young Chevrolet Cadillac
Fishbeck		

## Welcome New Members

**Lansing Central United  
Methodist Church**  
(517) 485-9477  
[www.lansingcentralumc.net](http://www.lansingcentralumc.net)  
215 N Capitol Ave  
Lansing, MI 48933

**Tangy Crab**  
(517) 925-8215  
[www.thetangycrab.com](http://www.thetangycrab.com)  
7433 W. Saginaw Hwy.  
Lansing, MI 48917

**Lansing Shuffle Board  
& Social Club**  
(517) 940-4365  
[www.lansingshuffle.com](http://www.lansingshuffle.com)  
325 Riverfront Dr.  
Lansing, MI 48912

**Dale Carnegie of  
Southwest Michigan**  
(517) 244-0687  
[swmi.dalecarnegie.com](http://swmi.dalecarnegie.com)  
900 Elmwood Rd.  
Lansing, MI 48917

**Sycamore Creek Church**  
(517) 394-6100  
[www.sycamorecreekchurch.org](http://www.sycamorecreekchurch.org)  
1919 South Pennsylvania  
Avenue  
Lansing, MI 48910

**Hall 224**  
[www.hall224.com](http://www.hall224.com)  
224 S. Washington Square  
Lansing, MI 48933

**PMP Personnel**  
(616) 780-1055  
[www.pmppersonnel.com](http://www.pmppersonnel.com)  
528 4th St. NW  
Grand Rapids, MI 49504

**Sarokis Crispy Chicken &  
Pizza**  
(517) 480-1234  
[www.sarokis.com](http://www.sarokis.com)  
1619 Haslett Rd  
Haslett, MI 48840

**Pleasantrees**  
(517) 237-3050  
[www.enjoypleasantrees.com](http://www.enjoypleasantrees.com)  
1950 Merritt Rd  
East Lansing, MI 48823

**Fuel'd Stir Fry Salad**  
(517) 220-4983  
[www.fuel'dfoods.com](http://www.fuel'dfoods.com)  
1500 W. Lake Lansing Rd.,  
Ste 2  
East Lansing, MI 48823

**Lansing Area Safety  
Council**  
(517) 394-4614  
[www.safetycouncil.org](http://www.safetycouncil.org)  
809 Center St., Ste 2A  
Lansing, MI 48906

**Sneller Snow and Grounds**  
(616) 824-7566  
[www.snellersg.com](http://www.snellersg.com)  
675 Clyde Ct SW  
Byron Center, MI 49315

**Ohana Sushi**  
(517) 993-9988  
[www.ohanasushilansing.com](http://www.ohanasushilansing.com)  
707 Brookside Dr.  
Lansing, MI 48917

**Alzheimer's Association**  
(800) 272-3900  
[www.alz.org](http://www.alz.org)  
2111 University Park, Suite 200  
Okemos, MI 48864



## LRCC Launches Second Annual DEI Executive Roundtable

The Lansing Regional Chamber of Commerce (LRCC) is proud to announce that 13 area executives have been selected to participate in the second annual Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (DEI) Executive Roundtable program. The program offers a setting for CEOs, senior level business leaders and small business owners an opportunity to discuss confidentially, share advice, learn best practices, equity tools and approaches in strengthening DEI with their organizations.

“This training is very important because it allows an opportunity for leaders within their organizations to get equipped, be informed and provide them with practical tools that they can use in their everyday work to not only make their organization better but also make our community better,” said Dr. Tonya Bailey, founder of TCB Consulting, Inc. Dr. Bailey serves as facilitator of the DEI Executive Roundtable.

The DEI Executive Roundtable is a 12-month program designed to prepare leaders to implement social change within their organizations, enhance their role as inclusive leaders, and provide substantial business growth and success tools.

“Leaders will gain practical skills that can be used not only professionally but personally,” said Dr. Bailey. “Leaders will gain an opportunity to hear from their colleagues that have similar roles and challenges in the workplace. They will leave this program becoming an agent of change. It will provide our broader community with champions which are need for diversity, equity and inclusion.” ●

### The 14 leaders who will participate in this year’s cohort include:

- Craig Smith** The Christman Company
- Taunya Sims** Jus Us Kidz Child Care & Family Services LLC
- Tristan Wright** Lansing Entertainment & Public Facilities Authority (LEPFA)
- Krista Stevens** Bethany Christian Services of Michigan
- Amber Denney** Lansing Community College
- Muhammad Tahir** LAFCU
- Antonio Botello III** Child and Family Charities
- Brandy Ryan** Michigan Dental Association
- Carlie Beatty** Playmakers
- Gabrielle Sarpy** Community Mental Health of Clinton, Eaton and Ingham Counties
- Karenia Randle** Dykema Gossett
- Tyler Jones** Highfields, Inc.
- Rachel Kuntzsch** Public Sector Consultants



## Eighth Leadership Lansing Cohort Graduates

**36** outstanding leaders from around the Greater Lansing region recently completed the Lansing Regional Chamber of Commerce Leadership Lansing program. A graduation ceremony was held following the final Leadership Lansing workshop for the 2022-23 cohort on May 9, 2023.

The 2022-23 Leadership Lansing cohort launched last October and included six workshops that featured guest speakers, panel discussions, field trips and individual leadership training activities. The theme for May was education and included a visit to the professional trades programs offered through the Eaton RESA and LCC West. The group enjoyed an outstanding panel discussion on the professional trades which included Eaton RESA Superintendent Sean Williams, Ingham Intermediate School Superintendent Jason Mellema and Cathy Wilhm, Dean, LCC Technical Careers Division.

The panel was moderated by Michelle Stracz of the Capital Area College Access Network. Participants also visited Farm Bureau Insurance to learn about the insurance partnership between Farm Bureau and Eaton RESA. High school students participating in the program receive college credits which are applied to a degree program in the insurance area. The group also had the privilege of touring the new STEM building at Michigan State University, which was facilitated by Sandra Lupien, Director, MassTimber@MSU.

Leadership Lansing is designed to help develop and equip the next generation of community leaders in the region. 295 leaders in Greater Lansing have now completed Leadership Lansing. More information about the Leadership Lansing program can be found at [lansingchamber.org](http://lansingchamber.org).

## Chamber Milestones

**L.O. Eyecare**  
65 Years

**Mulder Company**  
45 Years

**MSU Federal Credit Union (MSUFCU)**  
40 Years

**Image Builders Unlimited**  
15 Years

**Day Family Dental**  
10 Years

**Lansing Sanitary Supply, Inc.**  
10 Years

**Lansing Mosaic**  
5 Years

**Lowery Underground Service LLC**  
5 Years

**Michigan Premier Events**  
5 Years

**Riverwalk Theatre**  
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!*





## ATHENA WIN: A Focus on Holistic Wellness

**O**n April 20, ATHENA Women’s Interest Network (WIN) hosted a Professional Growth & Development Series focused on holistic wellness. Joy Wagner, human resources manager, Granger Waste Services, delivered a powerful presentation and shared her personal journey with wellness. Wagner spoke about the importance of scheduling non-negotiable time for wellness, giving ourselves grace, practicing gratitude and breathing. For more information about ATHENA WIN and to register for upcoming events visit [www.lansingchamber.org/athenawin](http://www.lansingchamber.org/athenawin). ●



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# ITC Holdings: 20 Years of Shaping the Future of Reliable Energy

By: Cionne Casanova,  
Kolt Communications, Inc

ITC Holdings, the United States' largest independent electricity transmission company based in Novi, Michigan, recently celebrated its 20-year anniversary. Kwafo Adarkwa, Director of Public Affairs at ITC, shared the company's strategy for success.



"Since our inception, our mindset has been to promote innovation while focusing on reliability and safety in the interest of serving our customers in the state of Michigan," said Adarkwa.

Since 2003, ITC has been enhancing the reliability of the high voltage transmission grid by building and improving our infrastructure. Today, and in years to come, ITC is focused on executing "The Long-Range Transmission Plan" - critical infrastructure that will be constructed from northern Indiana to mid-Michigan. This would be Michigan's first new inter-regional lines since 1973, which are critical to ensuring the flow of uninterrupted power as the nation shifts to green energy. With 20 years under their belt, ITC is constantly looking forward while being active members of the communities they serve.



Adarkwa

"We've done a lot to celebrate our milestone," said Adarkwa. "We took the whole month of March to give back to the community. Our employees boxed and hand-delivered a variety of essential items for charities around the state including Food Gathers, Lighthouse, SHARE Center to name a few, to show how appreciative we are of our communities."

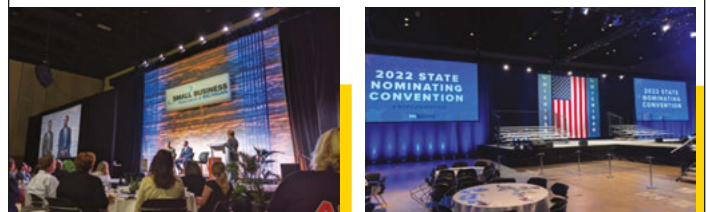
ITC is laser-focused on shaping the future of renewable energy to ensure the lights stay on in this changing energy landscape.

"I'm so thankful to be working with ITC because we are on a mission for the greater good," said Adarkwa. "Even being part of the Chamber and supporting its work to grow the capital city, and the state as a whole, has been a pleasure for ITC."

With the future of ITC looking bright (and sustainable),

Adarkwa is confident the company will continue to grow over the next 20 years.

"We always want to consider those who are going to come after us, the next generation, and be the trailblazer for other companies to model" said Adarkwa. "I'm honored to have the chance to talk personally, and on behalf of ITC, as we are in the business of keeping the lights on for generations to come." ●



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## Indian Trails Makes Big Improvements in Michigan's Transportation System

**J**ust in the past few months, Indian Trails and its Michigan Flyer division have made several major enhancements in the bus transportation system for passengers in Michigan and beyond.

In February, Indian Trails, Inc., which operates one of the largest fleets of deluxe motorcoaches in Michigan, launched a new national bus-ticketing system developed by Transcor Data Services. This enabled Indian Trails to expand interline connections with 80 independent bus companies nationwide.

Interlining gives travelers the ability to buy a single ticket for a trip that includes two or more carriers in the national transportation network, including Amtrak.

"We're excited about growing our network of interlining carriers in order to give our customers comfortable, affordable and eco-friendly access to destinations all across North America," said Chad Cushman, president of Indian Trails.

In March, Indian Trails formed an interlining partnership with Megabus, which provides city-to-city express service to more than 300 communities throughout the U.S. and Canada.

That same month, Indian Trails expanded its own daily routes to include three roundtrips a day between Detroit and Chicago, each of which connect with its daily Michigan routes north of I-94.

And in April, Indian Trails and Trailways of New York also formed an interlining partnership that offers twice daily international service between Detroit and Toronto, with stops in Windsor, Chatham, London and Paris, Ontario.

### Michigan Flyer on the Move

Michigan Flyer, LLC, whose frequent, daily motorcoach connections between East Lansing, Brighton, Ann Arbor, and Detroit Metro Airport have carried more than 2.3 million passengers since 2006, is also driving progress for passengers.

In May, it launched a new door-to-door service called "Hytch" that enables passengers to connect with their bus at the East Lansing Marriott, right from, or to, the door of their home, workplace, or anywhere else in the Hytch service area.



Hytch is already popular with residents and out-of-town visitors as an alternative to driving a car, getting a ride from family or friends, calling a taxi, etc.

"Hytch serves all business and residential addresses within a roughly 4-mile radius of our East Lansing location," says Michigan Flyer VP Ody Norkin. "So, Hytch rides are available to or from Downtown Lansing, the MSU campus, parts of Meridian Township, and more."

Hytch Details:

- Hytch tickets cost \$10 per person one way and are available only to Michigan Flyer passengers when booking their bus trips online.
- Hytch vehicles, all with experienced drivers, are new-model, 5-passenger, ride-share vans, one of which is wheelchair accessible.
- Hytch rides are available Sunday through Friday from 3 a.m. to 11 p.m., but not on Saturday.

"We're especially happy that Hytch can help senior citizens, veterans, and people with disabilities to access Michigan Flyer, and then connect with early-morning, low-fare flights out of Detroit. It's a big bonus that Hytch helps out-of-town visitors to reach family and friends, plus a host of business, education, healthcare, and entertainment venues, in our area." ●

# Greater Lansing United Nations Association Seeking Nominations for Global Goals — Local Leaders Awards

By: Lynn Bartley and Hakan Yildiz, Greater Lansing United Nations Association Board members

**A** longtime member of the Lansing Chamber of Commerce, the Greater Lansing United Nations Association (GL-UNA) welcomes nominations for individuals, companies, and organizations that work on the “Global Goals” (aka Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)). GL-UNA will award “Global Goals - Local Leaders” awards at its next United Nations Day Celebration in October 2023. Nomination information can be found at [www.gluna.org/sdg-awards-global-leaders](http://www.gluna.org/sdg-awards-global-leaders).

Previous awardees from the Greater Lansing area include:

- Joan Nelson, Allen Neighborhood Center, Lansing, for SDG#2 -Zero Hunger and SDG#8 - Decent Work and Economic Growth
- Kiwanis Club, South Lansing, for SDG #3 - Good Health and Well-being
- Barbara Roberts Mason, Lansing, for SDG#1 - Zero Poverty and SDG#10 -Reduced Inequality

- Thasin Sardar, East Lansing for SDG#7 - Affordable and Clean Energy
- MSU Carport Solar Array, East Lansing, for SDG#7- Affordable and Clean Energy
- Zonta International District 15, for SDG#5 - Gender Equality and SDG#4- Quality Education
- Meridian Township for SDG #12 - Responsible Consumption and Production

A complete list of awardees is available at [www.gluna.org/sdg-awards-global-leaders](http://www.gluna.org/sdg-awards-global-leaders).

SDGs can only be reached at local, state, and global levels through the involvement of businesses, NGOs, governments, schools, and others. Today over 9000 business work in partnership with the UN and countries around the world to further progress on the SDGs. To learn more about the 17 SDGs and how to take action, please visit [www.globalgoals.org/take-action](http://www.globalgoals.org/take-action) and [business.globalgoals.org](http://business.globalgoals.org). ●



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The Lansing Regional Chamber of Commerce (LRCC) was proud to present a donation on April 25 in support of the Spartan Strong Fund and those most critically impacted by the February 13 tragedy on the Michigan State University campus. The LRCC partnered with the Mid-Michigan Spartans to host a fundraiser event on March 21 at High Caliber Karting & Entertainment in the Meridian Mall. Thanks to a matching donation from the Gillespie Group, the LRCC was able to present a donation to the Spartan Strong Fund totaling \$3,460. Thank you to all who contributed to this fundraiser and have supported the MSU community during these difficult times.



Graze Craze celebrated with employees and the guests of honor at a special ribbon-cutting ceremony for the grand opening of its new location at 2315 Jolly Road, Okemos. Graze Craze specializes in charcuterie boards and boxes for big and small celebrations.



Joining their sister store in Coldwater, Sapura is proud to have opened their second location at 3000 Dunkel Road, Lansing. Business hours are 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. seven days a week. The Sapura team is ready to assist you in a relaxed and friendly atmosphere.



The Lansing Economic Club welcomed Brian T. Murray, creative director for Electronic Arts on May 9. Murray is a multiple Emmy and Cannes Lion award-winning Director of Photography with more than 17 years of cinematic experience. Murray's presentation focused on the future of the video game industry. He spoke about the Mid-Michigan region is uniquely positioned to capitalize on this multi-billion-dollar industry and how gaming can benefit business and be a great way to explore opportunities with the power of technology.



The Lansing Regional Chamber of Commerce cohosted the May Member Mixer with the Greater Lansing Convention & Visitors Bureau at the beautiful Jackson field home of the Lansing Lugnuts. It was an evening filled with meaningful conversation and connection. Thank you to all who joined us and for Tri-Star Trust Bank for their generous sponsorship.

# Lansing Regional Chamber of Commerce Announces Endorsements in Lansing City Council Races

**TAMERA CARTER AND TRINI LOPEZ-PEHLIVANOGLU ENDORSED FOR AT-LARGE SEATS. RYAN KOST AND ADAM HUSSAIN ENDORSED FOR 1ST/3RD WARD.**

The Lansing Regional Chamber of Commerce Political Action Committee (LRC-PAC) has announced its endorsements in the 2023 races for Lansing City Council. Endorsed candidates include:

- Tamera Carter, At-Large
- Trini Lopez-Pehlivanoglu, At-Large
- Ryan Kost, 1st Ward
- Adam Hussain, 3rd Ward

“Lansing is at a critical juncture in determining the city’s future direction and we need forward-thinking candidates who share our vision of what that future can look like,” said Kevin Shaw, chair, LRC-PAC. “We believe these candidates possess the necessary qualities needed to bring fresh perspectives and drive positive progress for our community.”

The 2023 Primary Election will be held on Tuesday, August 8 and the General Election will be held on Tuesday, November 7.



Carter

**Tamera Carter** is a 2005 graduate of Michigan State University and has been a committed Lansing resident for two decades. She has identified her priorities as gun violence and safe neighborhoods, economic development, housing insecurity and homelessness and equity and inclusion. She is very active in the community including serving on the Impression 5 Board of Directors, Board member at Tabernacle of Lansing and Downtown Lansing, Inc.



Lopez-Pehlivanoglu

**Trini Lopez-Pehlivanoglu** was raised in Lansing and is now raising her own family on Lansing’s Southwest side. She earned a bachelor’s degree from Cleary University in 2020. Over the years Trini’s work ethic and skillset led her to serve as senior executive management assistant in the executive office of the Michigan Department of Attorney General. Trini is passionate about serving her community and currently serves on the Cristo Rey Community Center Board of Directors, Secretary of

Ingham County Equal Opportunity Committee, Secretary of Southwest Action Group, City of Lansing Board of Ethics – Third Ward Representative, and Member of Michigan Latino Leadership Network.



Kost

**Ryan Kost** has been active in his community and fighting for our neighborhoods for years before he was elected to City Council in November 2022. Ryan now proudly represents Lansing’s First Ward and is also the first openly gay candidate to be elected to represent this ward. He also currently serves his community as a board member of the Eastside Neighborhood Organization, Friends of Bancroft Park, and Foster Your Neighborhood.



Hussain

**Adam Hussain** was first elected to council in 2015 and represents Lansing’s Ward 3. He served as City Council president in 2022 and vice president in 2020 and 2021. Adam is a leader in advocating for change in southwest Lansing, including renovation of Logan Square. In 2023 Council Member Hussain serves on the following Committees and Boards: Committee of the Whole- Member; Committee on Public Safety – Chairperson; Committee on City Operations - Vice Chairperson and Ad Hoc on Homelessness and Solutions - Vice Chairperson

“In order to move Lansing forward, we need elected officials who are willing to seek common ground and work together to both find and advance solutions to the challenges we face,” said Steve Japinga, senior vice president/public affairs, LRCC. “All these candidates are established consensus builders dedicated to cultivating a vibrant and thriving city.”

The LRC-PAC’s endorsement process includes a review of a candidate’s performance, a written questionnaire, and, in some cases, an in-person interview. Only after this process is completed and a vote of the LRC-PAC Board is taken can a candidate be endorsed and be considered for financial support. Learn more about the LRC-PAC here: [www.lansingchamber.org/lrc-pac](http://www.lansingchamber.org/lrc-pac). ●

## Federal & State Roundtable Recaps

**E**ast Lansing Mayor Ron Bacon spoke with several East Lansing business members at the Lansing Regional Chamber of Commerce Federal and State Business Roundtable held at MSUFCU HQ. He highlighted the progress and work being made in the city as it pertains to economic development efforts, housing, and infrastructure.



Senate Majority Leader Winnie Brinks spoke with several business members during the Lansing Regional Chamber of Commerce Federal and State Business Roundtable. She highlighted several policies that the Senate Democratic Caucus has worked on for the first 100 days in the new Legislature.



Congresswoman Elissa Slotkin joined the Lansing Regional Chamber of Commerce at a Federal and State Business Roundtable to provide an update on the federal and state policy issues impacting businesses in the mid-Michigan region. ●



## Legal Immigration and Border Enforcement Reform This Year (LIBERTY) Campaign

**T**he Lansing Regional Chamber of Commerce has joined the U.S. Chamber Legal Immigration and Border Enforcement Reform This Year (LIBERTY) campaign to call upon Congress to enact measures this year to improve the border and our legal immigration system.

There are numerous areas that could form the basis of bipartisan compromises that would break the current gridlock, including:

- Increasing the human, physical, and technological resources along the southern border and at our ports of entry;
- Sensibly reforming our nation's asylum laws;

- Instituting modern, effective, and efficient employment verification reforms;
- Significantly increasing the annual quotas for employment-based immigrant and nonimmigrant visas;
- Expanding the scope of essential worker programs, specifically allowing employers to meet temporary labor needs in non-seasonal jobs;
- Creating new visa options for international students, entrepreneurs, and other high-demand workers to help American employers meet their critical workforce needs.

Visit the 'Current Issues' section on the Advocacy tab on the LRCC's website to read the full letter. ●

## OurSpace (517) Selected as 2023 Lansing Built to Last Winner

**O**urSpace (517) was recently selected from among six finalists as the winner of the second Lansing Built to Last competition. OurSpace (517) is the creation of Mikey Austin along with partners Hezekiah Trevino and Keyante Saxon. OurSpace (517) offers web planning, video production, marketing and strategic planning. The OurSpace Foundation is the non-profit arm that puts on community events.

“One of the biggest events we put on every year is the 517 Juneteenth weekend in REO Town,” said Austin, who is founder and director of the company. “The first event in 2021 brought out 1,100 to 1,200 people. The second year we grew to a four-day event attended by more than 3,000.”

After that success, OurSpace (517) decided to make a business engaged in activating corridors, by creating events and programs around Lansing that promote culture and wellness.

Lansing Built to Last is a local startup competition for entrepreneurs and idea-makers. The idea for the competition was developed by Michelle Massey who solicited support from several sponsor organizations that wanted to strengthen Greater Lansing by identifying businesses that bring people together and promote positive community development. The concept started during the Covid pandemic when there was an exodus of people and businesses from downtown Lansing.

“The purpose of the competition is to find the next great business for the Lansing region,” said Michelle Massey of TechSmith. “If you have a business that people want to invest in that business will thrive.”

Businesses that are looked at in the competition have to be sustainable after 5 p.m. They have to be a weekend attraction. They need a Greater Lansing presence and eventually must employ Lansing residents. They also need to have a business plan ready by June 2023. In addition, businesses cannot already have a bricks and mortar location and they can't have been in business for more than two years.

“We're not trying to find another location for an established business in Lansing,” said Massey. “We're truly trying to find an entrepreneur that we can give a hand up to and not necessarily a handout.”

As the winner of the Lansing Built to last competition, Our Space (517) will receive one year of free rent for its



From L to R: Michelle Massey (TechSmith), Keyante Saxon (OurSpace 517), Kelly Schafka (Dewpoint), Mikey Austin (OurSpace 517), Martin Hernandez (OurSpace517), Annastasha Trevino (OurSpace517), Hezekiah Trevino (OurSpace 517), Megan Dowell (Know Your Home) and William Dowell (Know Your Home).

business, courtesy of Eyde Development. They will also receive additional support from a variety of experts, including free energy efficiency consulting (BWL), free legal counsel (Warner Norcroc + Judd LLP), free business banking and financial services (MSUFCU), free branding, and website consultation services (Redhead Design), free IT support (Dewpoint), free video software and support (TechSmith) and free publicity support (RedHead). OurSpace will also receive a free one-year membership to the Lansing Regional Chamber of Commerce and the University Club of MSU, a travel voucher from Capital Region International Airport and transportation to the airport from Dean Transportation.

First runner-up in the Lansing Built to Last competition was Know Your Home remodeling, owned by Megan Dowell. Know Your Home is a spin-off from Do-Well Remodeling which Megan and her husband have operated for nearly ten years. Megan created Know Your Home to offer monthly classes to women who she said are often taken advantage of when it comes to home improvements and remodeling.

“I really wanted to give them an opportunity to fix their own home or problem areas in their home by themselves,” said Dowell. “We bring all the materials and tools. We've done drywall and shown people how to change their lighting fixtures. We also teach them how to find a licensed contractor and verify a registered business so they would know who is coming into their home.”

As first runner-up, Know Your Home remodeling will receive a year of retail space in Middle Village Micro Market in Downtown Lansing, which includes business coaching and support services.

The other finalists in the Lansing Built to Last competition include Black Rose Designs (Oscar Ivan Pena), Sew Sew Crafted (Yolanda Anderson), Lovely Junk Interactive (Todd C. Parkhill) and Grow the Earth (J.Moore). ●





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# The Lansing Regional Chamber of Commerce *2023 Annual Dinner*

In some respects, the return of the Lansing Regional Chamber of Commerce (LRCC) Annual Dinner to the Michigan State University Kellogg Center for the first time since 2020 felt like being back home again. The Kellogg Center has been the host of the Annual Dinner for many years, but the Covid pandemic temporarily forced a change of venue and format.

A crowd of more than 600 business and community leaders enjoyed the festive atmosphere and an evening of networking, fine dining and an opportunity to celebrate the accomplishments of outstanding business leaders and organizations in the region. The chair of the LRCC Board of Directors, Matt Resch, reflected on the past few years as he welcomed the crowd.

"This is the first time that we've been able to have this Annual Dinner celebration in this traditional sit-down form since the pandemic," said Resch, who owns Resch Strategies, a public relations and public affairs company located in downtown Lansing. "We've had to cancel before. We've done a socially-distanced, outdoor celebration at the Lugnut's baseball stadium. And last

year we had a strolling reception to help recognize our community and our award winners. But, tonight, we've come back. We've come back to the annual dinner we all remember."

LRCC President & CEO Tim Daman noted the Annual Dinner was the culmination of one of the busiest weeks of the year during which the Chamber hosted three major events for its members and the community.

"In the past 24 hours our organization has connected and engaged with more than 1,300 business and community leaders through Economic Club, a joint member mixer with the CVB at Jackson Field and tonight's sold-out Annual Dinner," said Daman. "This speaks to an important role that Chamber's play in convening and providing opportunities for people to connect. Thank you all for the support."

## *An Award-Winning Evening*

The LRCC Annual Dinner serves as an occasion to recognize and celebrate excellence in leadership in our region through the presentation of several prestigious



annual awards. Bob Hoffman from the Wharton Center and Fox 47 served as emcee for the program.

Retired Neogen CEO James Herbert received the Community Service Award for his work in business and philanthropy. Herbert co-founded Neogen and as a result of his leadership, the firm grew into a global powerhouse in food and animal safety. Jim and his wife Judith, both cancer survivors donated \$7.5 million to Sparrow Health Systems towards construction of the Herbert Herman Cancer Center and to fund diagnosis and treatment of cancer through genomics and precision medicine.

F.D. Hayes Electric Company was awarded the Outstanding Small Business Award. For 100 years, F.D Hayes has been a leader in commercial and residential electric services. The company is now led by fourth generation family member, Megan Doherty.

CASE Credit Union was recognized with the Diversity Star award. Cosponsored by LRCC and LEAP, the Diversity Star award recognizes leadership in advancing diversity, equity and inclusion within their organization and the region.

*"This is the first time that we've been able to have this Annual Dinner celebration in this traditional sit-down form since the pandemic. We've had to cancel before. We've done a socially-distanced, outdoor celebration at the Lugnut's baseball stadium. And last year we had a strolling reception to help recognize our community and our award winners. But, tonight, we've come back. We've come back to annual dinner we all remember."*

The LRCC Legacy award was presented to Comerica in recognition of their 84 years as a Chamber member and investor. Comerica has a proud history of supporting business growth in the region and supporting numerous non-profit organizations.

Chamber Ambassadors are those folks with familiar faces who volunteer at the numerous Chamber activities throughout the year.

Ambassadors help staff the registration tables and work to help connect Chamber members with each other. During the Annual Dinner, Lisa Fisher of Lisa Fisher Associates was announced as the Ambassador of the Year, news that was a surprise to Fisher.

The Annual Dinner also provided an opportunity to recognize numerous other award recipients LRCC has honored during the course of the past year, including 2022 ATHENA Leadership recipient, Dorothy E. Maxwell, 2023 ATHENAPowerLink recipient, Lorin Cumberbatch, the 2022 class of young professionals recognized with the 10 Over

the Next Ten Award and the recent graduates of the Leadership Lansing program. ●



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# F.D. Hayes Electric Company Receives Outstanding Small Business Award

By: Hailey Kenward, Kolt Communications, Inc.

**M**egan Doherty is the fourth generation within the Hayes family to serve as the president and CEO of the F.D. Hayes Electric Company. She is currently leading them through one of the most monumental years for the company to date. They have reached a century of service for Lansing area citizens and businesses and have been chosen for the Outstanding Small Business Award by the Lansing Regional Chamber of Commerce (LRCC).



Doherty

Throughout the century, the company has changed owners and through that, changed the way they serve the Lansing community. Doherty's Great-Grandfather, F. D. Hayes, was an engineer and inventor who began the F.D. Hayes Electric Company. He held a multitude of early patents for the motors within various everyday items.

After F.D. the company was moved to F.J. Hayes, who transitioned the company toward motor repair, installation and construction. Thereafter it was moved to her father, Patrick, who focused on commercial electrical construction and low voltage data communication. Since 2016, the company has fallen under Doherty's leadership. Her focus has been on ensuring consistent service for their clients.

"We hope to focus further on turnkey installation, meaning we would assist them in their initial installation, and then continue to serve them through maintenance, repairs and updates," said Doherty. "We are also incredibly excited about the electrification of things such as electric vehicles. We hope to focus on the installation of electric vehicles along with working on the installation of enhanced audio and visual technology on the low voltage side of business."

Doherty has also ensured F. D. Hayes Electric Company commitment to the Lansing community. They currently support a variety of organizations. They donate time to Mid-Michigan Recovery Services modernizing their facilities as they expand. Other organizations they support include The Davies Project, Junior Achievement and the Lansing Schools CTE Program within the skilled trades portion.

"We are in the business of providing the best people for a job but ensuring that incredible nonprofit organizations



receive that service donated is very important to us," said Doherty.

Our community

is so important to us, we would not be here without them, so we are proud to be able to give back to them."

F. D. Hayes Electric has received numerous prestigious awards over the years. The Outstanding Small Business from LRCC has a special meaning for Doherty.

"This was a massive milestone for us this year, but this award is incredible," said Doherty. "I know there were brilliant companies nominated, being chosen is such a tremendous honor and even just being considered among them is an honor in itself."

For more information visit [www.fdhayes.com](http://www.fdhayes.com).

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# CASE Credit Union Receives Diversity Star Award

By: Cionne Casanova, Kolt Communications, Inc

CASE Credit Union has been named the recipient of the Diversity Star Award for its outstanding commitment to fostering equality and diversity in the workplace. This award which is presented by the Lansing Regional Chamber of Commerce (LRCC) and the Lansing Economic Area Partnership (LEAP) is given to companies and organizations inside of the Lansing area that show what it means to not only create inclusive environments, but also support the underserved.

"I was born and raised in Lansing. As a child I was bused to all white schools as they started to desegregate them so from an early age equality was a huge part of my life," said Jeffrey Benson, president & CEO, CASE Credit Union.

Benson has been in the credit union industry for over 30 years and carried his experience into his position at CASE



where he has been serving for the last 13 years. He has made it his mission to make sure the company's actions reflect what they stand by.

"When I first got into my role there was definitely a lot of work to be done, we've been very intentional in promoting diversity not only our board but our employees as well so that everyone feels they have a voice here. Our employee base as of now stands at around 35-40% for diverse peoples."

CASE is also a Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI) making sure that at least 60% of their total lending/services benefit low-income communities. CASE also takes pride in helping the unbanked and underserved by providing services like Responsible Rides, which provides car loans to people with low credit scores as long as they show they are have some sort of income and a few other minor factors. They also have Ingham County jail program that provides financial literacy for inmates who once released can open a CASE account.



Benson

"Credit unions were founded on people helping people and we really live by that. Not just affluent people but everybody deserves to have financial services. I am so humbled to receive an award like this because we live this every single day," said Benson. "It is so important that we reflect the community that we are in. When you walk into a CASE Credit Union you should feel

comfortable working with us and comfortable that we will understand you as an individual."

Benson doesn't plan to stop there either. With current ideas in the works for programs they already have in place, as well as a staff invested in seeing what they can do next, there is no end to the work that can be done to continue to serve the community.

"Our work is never going to stop," said Benson. "We're going to continue to be intentional with making sure diversity, equity and inclusivity is a part of who we are." ●

## Neogen Founder James Herbert Receives Community Service Award

**J**ames (Jim) Herbert, founder and longtime CEO of Lansing-based Neogen Corporation was honored as the recipient of the Lansing Regional Chamber of Commerce Community Service Award. Herbert was recognized for his work leading Neogen in becoming a global leader in food and animal safety as well as his philanthropic endeavors, including substantial donations he and his wife Judith made towards the construction of Sparrow Health Systems Herbert-Herman Cancer Center. Herbert said he feels a lot of pride for the unexpected recognition.



Herbert

“When you are honored by your home folks it means more than coming from someplace else,” said Herbert.

Neogen went public in 1990 and has been recognized several times by Forbes Magazine as one of the top 200 Small Businesses in the country. Today, Neogen tops \$1 billion in annual revenue with nearly 3,000 employees globally. Did Herbert ever envision Neogen would grow to what it is today?

“I never put caps on my dreams, said Herbert. “I saw what was happening in biotechnology and saw that particularly in the diagnostics area there were developments that were going to help make food and livestock safer. We could also see that there was a future for the use of genomics in all of this.”

In addition to being one of the Lansing region’s largest employers, Neogen has also played a large hand in rejuvenating several urban neighborhoods in the city through the acquisition and transformation of former school buildings which have become office and research labs. Herbert said the decision to purchase their first school building came at a time when the company didn’t have a lot of money and was renting lab space from Michigan State University.

“The size of the classrooms lent themselves well for laboratories or partitioned off as office space,” said Herbert. “They also had plenty of plumbing for the lab space. We prided ourselves on not investing too heavily in bricks and mortar but instead chose to invest in manpower.”

Jim and Judi Herbert, both cancer survivors, donated \$2.5 million to the construction of the Herbert-Herman Cancer Center, which opened in 2017. Their donation helped inspire

\$8.6 million in gifts from 971 donors. In 2022, the Herbert’s made the largest gift in Sparrow history, donating \$5 million to establish The Genomics Endowment for Diagnosis & Treatment of Cancer to fund advances in the diagnosis and treatment of cancer through genomics and precision medicine at Sparrow Herbert-Herman Cancer Center.

“We look at what we’ve done as a way to give back,” said Herbert. “In the bible it says ‘to him who much is given, much is expected.’ We were certainly given a lot and we’ve been trying to give some of that back.”

Among his enormous contributions in his career, Jim Herbert says he is most proud of his leadership in helping build Neogen to a great organization. Herbert is also proud of the wealth that Neogen created for many people including employees who purchased stock options and became millionaires and investors in the community who were able to send their children to college from the money they made on Neogen stock.

“We were doing things in biotechnology that nobody has ever done before,” said Herbert. “As I watched those products being built that were saving people’s lives, I listened to employees saying ‘Mr. Herbert I felt so good when I went home last night because I knew the things I did today saved somebody’s life.’ I was awfully proud of that attitude of all our people.” ●

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# Comerica Bank Named Recipient of LRCC Legacy Award

Comerica Bank was honored at the Lansing Regional Chamber of Commerce (LRCC) Annual Dinner as the recipient of the Legacy Award in recognition of the Bank's 84 years as a LRCC member and investor.



Nugent

Comerica's local headquarters is at 101 N. Washington Square in downtown Lansing, which is the longest continuous bank location in the region. Bank of Lansing was founded in 1928 and was briefly Manufacturers Bank before Comerica acquired the bank in 1992. Comerica has made a concerted effort to maintain the history and the original architecture of the building.

"We love people to visit us downtown and see the original architecture, chandeliers and the original teller line which is still here," said Christopher Nugent, vice president and commercial relationship manager, Comerica.

Comerica, which has six locations in the region, has a long-established track record of supporting local businesses through superior treasury management products as well as creative lending solutions. Comerica also has a wide array of wealth management products for both consumers and businesses of all sizes. The company is proud of its experienced bankers that are dedicated to the Lansing region.

Comerica's support for the Chamber has included working on various Chamber committees and its Board



of Directors. Nugent says the relationship with the Chamber has been mutually beneficial.

"Being a long-time member of the Chamber has given us a venue to connect both with existing clients as well as prospects for future business," said Nugent. "We are very proud of the Small Business Bootcamp Financial Education series that we offer which provides valuable information and resources to help grow many local businesses."

Part of Comerica's mission is to support the local community and the Bank encourages its team members to support local non-profits including serving on boards. Comerica is proud of its support of many organizations in the region including, Capital Area United Way, Habitat for Humanity, Ele's Place, Haven House, Cristo Rey Community Center and the Boys & Girls Club of Lansing. The Bank is also putting together a campaign to support the Capital Area Head Start program. Comerica also supports Downtown Lansing, Inc and is an annual sponsor of Silver Bells. ●

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## NEW HIRES

**McLaren Greater Lansing** is excited to announce that **Jodi Stein, MSN, RN** has joined the hospital as their chief nursing officer. Stein has 32 years of experience in hospital administration and acute care nursing. Stein has expertise in many areas and provides oversight for patient care services in neurovascular, medical, cardiovascular critical care, surgical high-acuity bariatric unit, and inpatient hemodialysis contracted services.



Crandall

**Bryan Crandall** joins **Triterra** as an industrial hygienist and is a member of their Industrial Hygiene Management Services team. His work focuses on hazardous material

inspections (asbestos, lead paint, and mold) at commercial and residential properties throughout Michigan.



Sarata and Schooley

**WILX Media** has hired **Rick Sarata** to lead the sales department as general sales manager. Sarata has spent his career in sales and leadership for both television and radio and brings a wealth of experience including a deep knowledge of the Lansing/Jackson market. Sarata succeeds current WILX General Sales Manager **Patrick Schooley**, who has been with the station nearly 22 years.

## AWARDS

**McLaren Greater Lansing** emergency room nurse, **Bea**



Yohannes

**Yohannes**, was honored with the DAISY Award for Extraordinary Nurses. Yohannes stayed past her twelve-hour shift to help the emergency room staff with a pediatric trauma.

In the chaos, Yohannes was calm and grounded, she helped the physicians by getting equipment and supplies needed, helping direct her peers and calling out orders, and even getting an IV line started on the toddler after several failed attempts by other medical staff.



**Francene (Franny) Ball, RN**, at **McLaren Greater Lansing** was honored with the DAISY Award for Extraordinary Nurses. Franny was nominated by one of her patients for being friendly, energetic, personable, open, honest, and dedicated to her patients. Franny specifically helped this patient when she felt like her physician wasn't listening to her concerns.



Larson

**LAFCU** has been chosen as the winner of the Michigan Credit Union League's Innovation Award for its Shields Up! Campaign. The award marks the fifth time in eight years LAFCU

has been recognized by the state's credit union trade organization as the winner of the Innovation Award. Shields Up! includes a variety of engaging tactics to educate LAFCU team members on what to watch out for related to cybercrime. MCUL also named LAFCU executive team member **Ryan Larson** the Young Professional of the Year for his exemplary service, dedication, and leadership to LAFCU and the credit union industry.

Two **Wilson Talent Center** staff members have been selected to receive regional Association for Career & Technical Education awards. **Scott**

**Sparrow Ionia Hospital** has honored one of its caregivers with the BEE Award for going above and beyond in her position. Nominated by fellow caregivers, Patient Access caregiver **Dawn Graham** received the BEE Award for her exceptional care towards patients and continual willingness to assist colleagues. Graham has worked at Sparrow Ionia since 2016.

Five **Wilson Talent Center** students placed in the top three



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## 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



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in their respective categories at the SkillsUSA State Leadership & Skills Conference in Grand Rapids in April. Students earned the honor of advancing to the state competition by placing at the regional level. They are: **Zach Fletcher** (Stockbridge), Construction Technology, Second Place, Plumbing; **Anne Neverdusky** (Lansing Sexton), Criminal Justice, First Place, Job Skills Demonstration; **Joshua Pillar** (Fowlerville), Precision Machining Technology, First Place, Lathe; **Austin Primeau** (Fowlerville), Precision Machining Technology, Third Place, Overall Machining and **Grace Reed-Smith** (Haslett), Criminal Justice, Third Place, Job Skills Demonstration. Neverdusky will advance to the SkillsUSA National Leadership & Skills Conference by placing first in her category. Pillar also placed first, but his category does not have a national competition.



Romero

**Victoria Romero**, Labor & Delivery Department certified surgical tech, first assistant at **McLaren Greater Lansing**, has been recognized

as one of the Lansing Latino Health Alliance's 2022 Outstanding Hispanic/Latino Caregivers. This award is given annually to a caregiver who has made a significant impact in the life of a patient, exceeded expectations in carrying out their responsibilities,

and demonstrated exceptional professionalism in the workplace.



A **Sparrow Eaton Hospital** caregiver whose great-grandparents came to the U.S. from Mexico looking for a better life has received the Outstanding Latino Caregiver Award from the Lansing Latino Health Alliance. **Christina Koetsier**, practice manager of Sparrow Medical Group Eaton Rapids, was lauded as a multi-talented leader with exceptional commitment and purpose in doing what's best for patients and her fellow caregivers.



During the recent **Highfields** Annual Meeting **Kurt** and **Barbara Guter** were presented with the 2023 Robert L. Drake Citizenship Award. Kurt and Barbara have supported Highfields since 2012, becoming more and more involved every year. They care about the impact of their gifts on Highfields and how they will ripple through the community.

Eight students from the BioScience Careers program at **Wilson Talent Center** earned honors at the FFA Science Fair held at Michigan State University last month. Students winning gold include **MiKayLee**

**Fedele** (Lansing Eastern), **Pierson Wells** (Okemos) and **Hayley Howard** (Waverly). Students winning silver include **Forrest Chrapkiewicz** (Okemos), **Harlie Mingus** (Homeschooled), **Ariana Nadeau** (Waverly), **Yaretzi Sanchez** (Lansing Eastern) and **Ashlee Chubb** (Stockbridge).



A registered nurse at **E.W. Sparrow Hospital** has been honored with the Michigan Health & Hospital Association's Q2 Keystone Center Speak-up! Award. **Cheryl Kay**, a nurse in Sparrow's Labor and Delivery Unit advocated for a patient recovering from a cesarean section.



The **Greater Lansing Sports Authority** is proud to be recognized along with their partners at West Michigan Sports Commission & Visit Muskegon for the partnership created in hosting the Junior Gold Bowling Youth Championships in 2022.

The 2023 **Highfields Partnership Award** was awarded to the **AF Group**, which has partnered with Highfields for 23 years in a variety of unique and meaningful ways. They awarded several grants which enhanced

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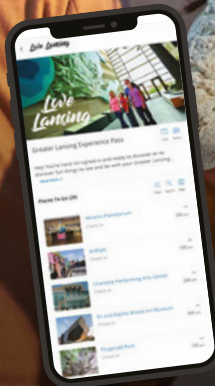
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safety for youth, including the gym renewal project at Malcolm Williams School on campus in Onondaga, and the fire safety project to install a sprinkler system in one of the student homes.



**Saddleback Barbecue** won the Certificate of Pure Achievement Award from the Governor's Conference on Tourism. They were recognized for their community involvement, including helping the Gaylord tornado victims, Capital City BBQ, and other fellow local restaurants.



The Grand Ledge Chamber of Commerce held its annual awards dinner on May 10. Three great Grand Ledge Public Schools people were nominated for educator of the year: **Kelly Shumway** (Beagle teacher), **Bill Barnes**

(superintendent), and **Stacey Austin** (Willow Ridge teacher). Barnes won and praised all the GLPS staff for doing good work.

**WKAR** has been named Michigan Public Television Station of the Year for 2022 by the Michigan Association of Broadcasters. This year marks the eleventh time in twelve years that WKAR has been named Public TV Station of the Year. The public media station serving Michigan's capital region also won awards in three special categories announced at the gala.



**Sparrow Eaton Hospital** has named **Morgan Truba**, who credits her nurse mother as the main influence in her career choice, as its 2022 Nurse of the Year. Truba, an RN on Sparrow Eaton's Med Surg team, has been a nurse for five years, spending the majority of that time with Sparrow Health System and the past two years at Sparrow Eaton.

**Edge**, a strategic marketing and public relations agency, received honors by the Central Michigan Public Relations Society of Michigan with one pinnacle and two excellence awards during the 2023 Pace Awards celebration, including; Community relations campaign for Child and Family Charities' Be the Light capital fundraising campaign; Marketing consumer products and services for Farm Bureau Insurance of Michigan's *Experience Matters* campaign; and Public Service campaign with Ingham County Health Department's Your Shot public education initiative.



Medical Surgical nurse **Tanya Koetje, BSN, RN**, has been selected as **Sparrow Ionia** Hospital's 2023 Nurse of the Year. Koetje – a caregiver at Sparrow Ionia since 1992 – was nominated by her colleagues for demonstrating the true meaning of compassion: listening to her patients, taking action to help, and advocating for their needs.

**Mary Free Bed at Sparrow, Sparrow Specialty Hospital, Sparrow's Okemos Emergency Department** and all five community hospitals have been honored with numerous awards from a national organization that tracks top scores for patient satisfaction. For the fifth consecutive year, Mary Free Bed at Sparrow received special distinction as the Top Performer in "Overall Quality of Care" for inpatient rehabilitation units. For a third consecutive year, Sparrow Specialty Hospital received the five-star award in "Overall Quality of Care" for inpatient medical services. Sparrow is also pleased to share that Sparrow Emergency Center Okemos (the freestanding Emergency Department that opened in 2022), and Emergency Departments at **Sparrow Carson** and **Sparrow Eaton** hospitals received a five-star award this year. Four-star awards, given to those who score in the top 25 percent nationally, were awarded to the **Sparrow Clinton** Emergency Department and the **Sparrow Ionia** Emergency Department.

## Saving the Family Cottage



Attorney Mark E. Kellogg and the cottage law team can help you think through the issues and take the actions necessary to create a cottage plan to keep your beloved home in the family for future generations.

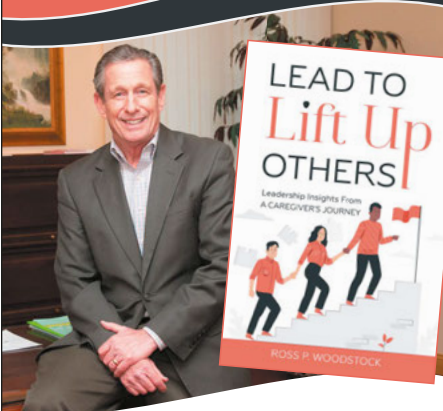
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## DISTINCTIONS



Congratulations to **Nicholas St. Hilaire, DO**, for completing 1,000 robotic surgeries since the start of his career at **McLaren Greater Lansing** hospital in 2016. Dr. St. Hilaire is a general surgeon performing complex hernia repairs, gallbladder removal, colectomies, and more robotically.

LAFCU's chief marketing officer and chief diversity officer has been recognized as a notable leader in marketing by Crain's Detroit Business, a leading business publication in Michigan. **Kelli Ellsworth Etchison** was selected as one of the 2023 honorees based on her accomplishments over the past 18 months.



**Sparrow Clinton** Hospital Chief Nursing Officer **Mariah Hesse** has been honored as 2023 Rural Health Professional of the Year for a lifetime's work in promoting and improving health services in rural areas. Hesse has not only made significant contributions to Sparrow Clinton but to Michigan's rural health infrastructure through her role as President of the Michigan Critical

Access Hospital Quality Network, a position she has held since 2018.

accountingTODAY

2023 **Regional Leaders**

**Maner Costerisan** has been recognized as one of the top accounting firms in the Great Lakes Region for the third consecutive year and earned the new distinction of 'Top Firms to Watch' by *Accounting Today* in its 2023 ranking of leading accounting firms nationwide.



Focused on their futures, **Eaton Regional Education Agency Career Preparation Center (CPC)** students took a step toward employment on May 4, accepting job offers and apprenticeships from area employers during SkillsUSA National Signing Day. Seventeen CPC high school seniors signed "letters of intent" to pursue employment, advanced technical training or an apprenticeship after graduation. Local employers were on hand to make offers and shake hands with their new hires.

**Change Media Group** is proud to announce that **Ryan Irvin** has been honored by the American Association of Political Consultants (AAPC) as one of the 40 best and brightest political professionals under 40. Only 20 Democrats and 20 Republicans in the United States were named to AAPC's exclusive 40 Under 40 winners list out of over 250 nominations.

When describing a successful president and CEO, many people think of core leadership skills like

self-awareness, communication, influence, and learning agility. If you take these skills and add in someone who is visible both in the community and at the hospital he works for, someone who isn't afraid of tough work and decisions, and someone who ultimately supports his team and is considered a mentor by most, you will have **Kirk Ray**, president and CEO of **McLaren Greater Lansing**. Ray is celebrating five years at McLaren Greater Lansing and the many achievements that were reached under his leadership during his career at the hospital.

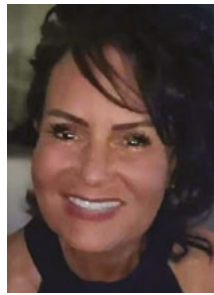
The law firm of **Loomis, Ewert, Parsley, Davis & Gotting** is pleased to announce that attorneys **James F. Anderton V, Kenneth W. Beall, Sara L. Cunningham, Michael A. Holmes, Paula K. Manis, Michael G. Oliva, Michael H. Rhodes, and Jeffrey S. Theuer** have been recognized by their peers as *Leading Business Lawyers in Michigan*, featured in *Leading Lawyers* magazine.

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS & EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE UPDATES



**Highfields Inc.** has welcomed new board members, including: **Robert Burgee**, Fraser Trebilcock; **Kellee Christensen**, Board of Water and Light; **Carol Giacoletto**, Retired, JP Morgan Chase; **Jarrod Lynch**, Plante Moran; **Taylor Moberg**, MSUFCU; **Jeff Roman**, CG Financial Services; **Shannon Scholten**, AF Group and **Amanda Toy**, Michigan Chamber of Commerce.

**McLaren Greater Lansing Foundation** is pleased and honored



Hengesbach

to announce the appointment of **Susan Hengesbach** to her second term, for the next three years as a member of the 2023 Foundation Leadership Board. The mission is to help provide McLaren Hospital with the resources needed to bring the best technology and physician-led solutions to the community to provide annual goals.

## PEOPLE NEWS



Dimond

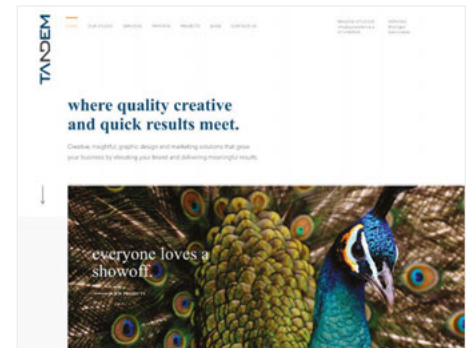
to announce the launch of its new website, featuring a completely redesigned look and a new, robust portfolio of graphic design, branding, and marketing projects. Learn more about how Tandem Studios can help elevate your brand by visiting [www.gotandem.biz](http://www.gotandem.biz).

**Gillespie Group** announced the name of their Medical Services Building, opening June 2023 in the University Health Park, as the "Izzo Family Medical Center" named after Michigan State University's Basketball Coach **Tom Izzo, his wife Lupe, and their family**. The naming opportunity was presented to the Izzo family to honor the positive contributions they have made in the community over the past 27 years.

## COMPANY NEWS

**Origami Rehabilitation** is honored to present this year's Annual Report. 2022 was another record year of significant growth as they worked tirelessly to support individuals with neurological, developmental, mental health, and orthopedic conditions. Despite the challenges of the past year,

they have continued to make meaningful progress towards their mission of creating opportunities and transforming the lives of these they serve. The full report is available at [origamirehab.org](http://origamirehab.org).



**Tandem Studios** is pleased to announce the launch of its new website, featuring a completely redesigned look and a new, robust portfolio of graphic design, branding, and marketing projects. Learn more about how Tandem Studios can help elevate your brand by visiting [www.gotandem.biz](http://www.gotandem.biz).



**LAFUCU** partnered with Perry High School on March 21 for a hands-on, two-hour Financial Reality Fair to teach 150 students how to make real-world financial decisions and manage money efficiently. Students were assigned a career, an annual income, and a credit score. After being assigned a career, students visited booths staffed by LAFUCU employees with their budget sheets to identify monthly expenses, such as housing, transportation, food, and leisure. At the final station, a LAFUCU financial counselor assisted students in evaluating their choices and exploring ways to improve their financial decision-making.



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The 23rd Annual Ingham Student Art Exhibit was held in May. The annual event is held as three separate receptions highlighting artwork chosen for display at **Ingham Intermediate School District**, the Michigan Education Leadership Group and **Lansing Art Gallery and Education Center**. Winning artwork selected for display at Ingham ISD was submitted by the following teachers: **Angie Herek** - Discovery & Explorer Elementary, Williamston Community Schools; **Audrey Bowen** - Steele Elementary, Mason Public Schools; **Dean Wilson** - Webberville High School; **Yolanda Combs & Jennifer Harrington** - Mason High School; **Kaylee Fletcher** - Haslett High School; **Marty Frew & Tracy Casali** - Mason Middle School; **Meagan Kubu** - Williamston High School; **Patricia David** - Leslie High School; **Rachel Hollenback & Amanda Welch** - Okemos High School; **Spencer Cobett** - East Lansing High School and **Wendy Sylvester-Rowan** - Stepping Stones Montessori, East Lansing.

The company formerly known as Needham Solutions



has recently undergone a rebranding and is now operating under the name **Hope & Teal Designs**. The rebranding has brought about improvements in processes, operational tools for communications, and more offerings for an even better experience. The team is thrilled to continue serving their clients under this new name and brand identity of Hope & Teal Designs - Designing with Faith & Technology, Delivering with Heart!

**Sparrow Eaton Hospital** has opened a new practice, Sparrow Medical Group Oncology Charlotte, to bolster leading-edge cancer care in the community. The practice at 1111 Lansing St., Suite 220, Charlotte, is open Wednesdays from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. To speak with one of their

dedicated staff members, please call 517.543.9564.

The East Lansing Downtown Management Board (DMB) is pleased to announce that **Risky Studios** celebrated its grand reopening at a new, expanded location in downtown East Lansing at 301 M.A.C. Ave., Ste. 103. on Saturday, April 15. Risky Studios is a multimedia production studio and creative co-working space owned by husband-and-wife duo Joshua and Alicia Southern. and provides accessible space and equipment for local business owners, artists and content creators to bring their creative endeavors to life.



The **Arts Council of Greater Lansing** is pleased to announce the kick off of the new Arts Night Out season! Arts Night Out is a collaboration between the Old Town Commercial Association, participating Old Town businesses and area artists and performers. Arts Night Out takes place rain or shine on first Fridays May - October (with the exception of some holidays), and runs from 5 - 8 p.m. It's held in a several-block radius that includes Cesar E. Chavez Ave., Turner St. and Washington Ave. Artists interested in participating can visit [myartsnightout.com](http://myartsnightout.com) or contact Tabor Vits at [tabor@lansingarts.org](mailto:tabor@lansingarts.org).

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**Sparrow Eaton Hospital** is celebrating the opening of a special room designated as a haven for caregivers seeking a quiet, therapeutic area away from the stresses of healthcare. The Lavender Room was created thanks to a remarkable donation from Joseph Eugene Pray, Sr., who joined Pray family members, Sparrow Eaton board members, and dozens of caregivers in a recent celebration.



**LAFCU** recently took its Listen & Learn Program to Perry Elementary School. The event coincided with the school's Pajama Day and featured a magician and a book intended to help young children build confidence in math and learn more about money. To encourage reading LAFCU donated 340 copies of the book, "Owl and Otter and the Big Yard Sale," written by Andrea Mills.



**WILX News 10** is excited to announce the expansion of its commitment to local news coverage with *First @ 4* which debuted on Monday, May 8. Viewers can join anchor **Taylor Gattoni** every weekday starting at 4 p.m. for your first look at the day's biggest stories and live interviews with local newsmakers.

**LAFCU** held a check presentation on April 6 for **Eric Cooper**, an Everett



High School senior, so he can attend a quintessential part of the high school experience: prom. The credit union, along with other community-minded donors, including Centennial Group and Lansing Church of God in Christ, raised \$1,120 to cover Cooper's expenses for the May 13 event. Cooper, the American-born son of a Haitian refugee mother and absentee father, faced numerous challenges throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. When schools closed during his sophomore year, Cooper and his family did not have the resources to fully participate in virtual online learning, and he fell way behind. Several months ago, LAFCU's former Local 459 Union representative reached out to LAFCU and others in the community to provide Cooper with a great experience for his senior year of high school. Not only did they raise funds for prom, but LAFCU and other donors raised money for clothing and a vehicle to get him to and from work and soccer practice.

A new exhibition is now open at the MSU Museum on the campus of **Michigan State University**. "WKAR's Legacy of Innovation," explores the history of **WKAR Public Media** and its service to the mid-Michigan and Spartan communities for more than a century. WKAR went on the air in 1922 as an AM radio station broadcasting agricultural news and information. It has grown into a robust media organization that includes WKAR-TV, WKAR Radio, wkar.org, Radio Reading Service, WKAR Digital Studios and WKAR Family.

**Holy Cross Services** was recently awarded a \$180,000 Out-of-School Time Learning grant from the Michigan Department of Education to provide summer program activities to high school students who are currently in or have previously been placed in foster care. The first "Belong, Be Strong" Summer Youth Program will be held at the Queen of Angels Campus at 3400 S. Washington Road in Saginaw operating from June 14, through August 25 and will provide remedial classroom instruction for credit recovery in Math and Science.



Flory

### Custom Built Design & Remodeling

is pleased to announce that **Michael Flory** has become the sole owner of Custom Built. Michael founded Custom Built

Decks in 2004, merging with his brother Chris in 2006. After over a decade of partnership, Chris looks forward to doing more of what he loves. Michael and the CB team will continue moving the mission forward to be the trusted guides throughout the remodeling process.



Ott

### Sparrow Medical Group (SMG) Orthopedics

**Carson City** has expanded to serve patients in the Ithaca community. Orthopedic surgeon **Susan Ott, D.O.**, is

welcoming new patients at SMG Ithaca, 114 N. Main St., Ithaca. In addition to the new location, Dr. Ott will continue to see patients at SMG Orthopedics Carson City, 245 S. Second St., Carson City. ●



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