

DIALOG



East Lansing's Residential Newsletter • September 2011 • Curbside Journal inside!



One Book Celebrates 10 Years

The One Book, One Community program will simultaneously celebrate its 10th anniversary this September, while paying tribute to the 10th anniversary of the 9/11 tragedy.

Community members can participate in a series of events planned around the themes in this year's book selection, "Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close" by Jonathan Safran Foer. At its core, Foer's book is about love, loss and the consequences of a tragic event in our nation's history. Learn more about this September's events at onebookeastlansing.com.

Buy Fresh, Local Goods at the East Lansing Farmer's Market

The third season of the East Lansing Farmer's Market (ELFM) successfully kicked off this past July and will continue through Oct. 30 on Sundays from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. in Valley Court Park.

The ELFM is a growers-only market robust with a diverse selection of fresh, farm-grown Michigan produce and products. On any given Sunday, market goers will find everything from fresh, in-season produce to fresh fish, meats, cheeses, desserts, breads, eat-on-site treats and more.

New this year, the ELFM has welcomed two new hot food vendors: Trailer Park'd and Grand Grillin'. These popular new vendors serve up a variety of culinary lunch items that can be enjoyed right in the park or taken home for a relaxing Sunday meal.

In addition to the fantastic fare, the ELFM also features live music, children's activities and special seasonal events. This fall, the popular Autumn Fest will return on Sunday, Oct. 9 from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. This popular annual event features free cider and donuts, pumpkin painting and face painting for children and a full assortment of autumn-inspired goods to purchase.

Community members who have yet to check out the



The market will be open on Sundays through Oct. 30 in Valley Court Park. The park is located behind Crunchy's on the west end of downtown East Lansing.

market are encouraged to do so this fall. With an estimated 1,000 visitors each week, there is a true sense of community down at the ELFM on Sundays. It's a great place to meet up with friends or spend a fun, relaxing day with family.

Community members can learn more about the market, sign up for weekly market e-newsletters, view shopping lists (updated weekly) and learn more about the incredible lineup of 2011 ELFM vendors at www.cityofeastlansing.com/farmersmarket.





Staton Says Farewell

This is the final Dialog column I will author as East Lansing City Manager, a position I have held for the last 16 years. It has been an honor to serve here in my adopted hometown. I was married to my wife Carol shortly after arriving in East Lansing in 1995. We honeymooned in northern Michigan. Our sons Paul and Ben were born here. We owned two different homes next to some of the best neighbors anyone could ask for. We stood on the sidelines of soccer games, along the base paths of baseball games and in the stands for many youth basketball games. I had a chance to coach many young people in youth sports. It all gave us a tremendous way to get to know so many wonderful people here.

The community achievements during my tenure are a source of great pride for me. We are bigger geographically, have a larger population and have doubled the community's tax base. Over \$25 million in recreation amenities exist today that were not here 16 years ago - the Hannah Community Center, Aquatic Center, Northern Tier Trail, Soccer Complex and Softball Complex.

The economy is stronger. Our region has been recognized as one of the top ten for job growth in mid-sized cities nationally and our partnerships with MSU led us to be named one of the 10 best college towns in which to start a business. Our city has become the region's center of financial service firms and we have seen much new development in the northern part of the city. Our downtown is more vibrant with nearly 100 new residences and three new festivals - the Great Lakes Folk Festival, Summer Solstice Jazz Festival and East Lansing Film Festival - now complement the 49-year-old East Lansing Art Festival.

I have been asked many times recently to describe how I would like my tenure to be remembered. I hate to use the word "legacy," but if pressed, I would say the most important aspect of my "legacy" is the people I leave behind at City Hall. They embrace and live our mission "Quality Services for a Quality Community" every day.



The East Lansing City Council plans to conduct a national search for East Lansing's next City Manager. Council has met with many community stakeholders to help draft a new profile.

Update on City Manager Search

East Lansing City Council is currently working to find East Lansing's next city manager and has drafted a timeline for the search.

A request for proposals (RFP) has been issued for a national search firm and Council expects to select the firm by mid-September. The selected firm will work closely with Council to conduct a national search, utilizing a community profile for the city manager position. The community profile was prepared by Council after conducting focus groups with

employee leadership and unions, neighborhood leaders, students/university officials and various other stakeholders.

The candidate recruitment period will take place in October and a presentation of the candidates will be provided to City Council in late November. Council will then conduct interviews in early December and make an announcement in late December or early 2012.

Deputy City Manager George Lahanas will serve as the interim city manager.

Call for Election Inspectors

The East Lansing City Clerk's office is currently seeking election inspectors for the November 8, 2011 City General Election.

Election inspectors must be qualified and registered voters in either Ingham or Clinton County and must attend a training session prior to Election Day. An application can be downloaded at www.cityofeastlansing.com.

The voter registration deadline for the Nov. 8 election is Oct. 11.



Special Note: Precinct 1 voters will be returning to Brody Hall (from Butterfield Hall) for the election. Call the City Clerk's office at (517) 319-6914 with any election questions.

The City is pleased to welcome new East Lansing City Clerk Marie McKenna.

Party Litter, Snow Removal Changes

East Lansing City Council adopted two new ordinances this year, which modify the City's previous party litter and snow removal ordinances.

The new party litter ordinance, Ord. 1260, includes a provision that allows Parking & Code Enforcement (PACE) officers to issue a ticket without a prior warning if the offense is deemed serious and establishes a tiered fine system for multiple party litter offenses. It should be noted that warnings will still be issued for minor offenses at PACE's discretion.

The new snow removal ordinance, Ord. 1262, was adopted to further clarify snow removal requirements for residents. Now, snow that accumulates before noon on a property owner's sidewalks must be cleared prior to midnight that same day.



Winter is still months away, but it's important to note some changes to City snow removal requirements.

Snow that accumulates after noon must be cleared by midnight of the following day. Ice removal requirements remain the same. Ice should be cleared or an abrasive (salt, sand, ect.) should be applied within

12 hours of formation.

Both ordinances, drafted with the assistance of student input, will help to create a clean, safe and walkable community for all East Lansing residents.

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www.facebook.com/cityofeastlansing

Follow us on our **Twitter** page at
www.twitter.com/CityofEL

IT'S YOUR BUSINESS

Spar-Thai Green Cab, 420 Albert Ave., opened this past spring in downtown East Lansing.

For as little as \$1 per passenger, residents and visitors of East Lansing can experience this fun, safe and environmentally friendly transportation alternative. The

new business features a full fleet of peddle/electric-powered pedicab bikes that are 100 percent rechargeable. Spar-Thai offers \$2.50 one-way rates for destinations in the immediate East Lansing area and \$1 Rock N' Roll Rides that last through one song (up to 3/4 mile). The business also offers fleet rates for group events.

In addition to its pedicab services, Spar-Thai also offers green laundry services. Customers can call to have their laundry picked up at their residence by a pedicab (weather permitting) or can drop off their laundry at Spar-Thai's downtown location. The business charges \$1 per pound (or less) to wash, dry, iron and fold machine washable items using top-of-the-line LG equipment.

Visit www.spar-thai.com to learn more about this new, green business, owned by MSU alumnus David Thorin.



Spar-Thai Green Cab, a new downtown East Lansing business, features "Clean Green" pedicabs.

SPAR-THAI GREEN CAB

Business Quick Facts

Address: 420 Albert Ave.

Phone: (517) 333-8700

Web Site: www.spar-thai.com

E-mail: david@spar-thai.com

Business Hours:

Monday-Sunday, 8 a.m. - 8 p.m.

*Hours are flexible. Pedicab services will run late on Friday and Saturday evenings during peak times, especially during the MSU school year.



Annual Report & Calendar

Similar to last year, the City will be publishing its 2011 Annual Report online this December in lieu of mailing it to every East Lansing household.

Based on community feedback, the City will be returning to its community calendar format of the report, which will be available in mid-December at www.cityofeastlansing.com.

It can be downloaded and printed page-by-page by residents and, in addition, limited edition print copies will be available at City buildings and by request.

In the face of continued fiscal challenges, the City elected to go online with the report in 2010. Community members can call (517) 319-6873 to request a copy of this year's report.

Call to Artists and Sponsors

The East Lansing Art Festival (ELAF) has issued its call to artists and sponsors for the 2012 event, taking place May 19-20 in downtown East Lansing.

Artists and emerging artists interested in exhibiting their work at the 49th Annual ELAF have until January 31, 2012 to apply. Artists must submit an online application, along with three images of their work and one image of their booth (booth image not required for emerging artists) at www.zapplication.org.

There is a discounted \$30

online application fee for artists that apply by Nov. 30. The application fee after that date is \$40. Contact the ELAF Office at (517) 319-6804 with any questions about the application process.

Businesses, organizations and individuals interested in becoming a sponsor or Friend of the Festival can contact the ELAF Office at (517) 319-6804 or info@elartfest.com. There are a variety of sponsorship levels that come with special recognition packages. Donations can also be made online at www.elartfest.com.

Library Card Sign-up Month

Community members can join the East Lansing Public Library (ELPL) and Cal Ripken, Jr. in celebrating National Library Card Sign-up Month this September.

Anyone who lives, works, owns a business or attends school (including MSU students) in East Lansing is encouraged to join thousands

of others in registering for a FREE ELPL card. Non-residents can also join in the fun for an affordable \$30 per year. In addition, ELPL will be waiving the \$2 replacement fee for lost cards this September. Interested community members can stop by ELPL, 950 Abbot Road, to sign up today.

Event to Celebrate City's Diversity

The City of East Lansing, the Office for International Students and Scholars and the Community Volunteers for International Programs (CVIP) are proud to announce that the 2nd Annual East Lansing Welcomes the World event will take place Sunday, Oct. 2 from 3-5 p.m. at the East Lansing Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Road.

Featured speakers will be MSU President Lou Anna K. Simon and world traveler Sam Singh. In addition to welcoming international students to the community, this year's event will recognize the CVIP for 50 years of service, during which time it has served to welcome thousands of MSU international students and scholars and their families to the Greater Lansing community.



The 2nd Annual East Lansing Welcomes the World event will take place on Oct. 2.

This year's event will include informal mingling among students and community members, food provided by local vendors and live music. The event is free

and open to all community members. Please contact Marie McKenna at mmckenn@cityofeastlansing.com for more information.

Library to Implement a Few Changes

The East Lansing Public Library (ELPL) and its patrons will experience a shift in how it conducts business this fall.

In an effort to maintain services on a smaller budget, ELPL will be implementing self checkout and self pick-up holds. These changes will allow ELPL to continue providing exceptional, pro-active customer service, while keeping costs down.

Patrons will be able to pick up hold items and check out materials themselves, allowing staff to move out from behind desks and become more accessible to patrons. Staff will be readily available to help with the new process and will also be more available to assist in other areas, eliminating long lines at the circulation desk.

Self checkout and self pick-up holds are new concepts to ELPL, however, they are not new to libraries. Neighboring library systems, including the Capital Area District Library and Delta Township District Library, have effectively used self checkout and self



pick-up holds for years.

Patrons will need to have their library card and PIN with them. If a patron's library card and PIN has been lost, a new one can be received. During the month of September, ELPL will waive the \$2 replacement fee for lost library cards.

In addition to these changes, the library has also changed how DVDs circulate. DVDs are now free to checkout at ELPL and there is a \$1.50 per day late fine on overdue DVDs. Patrons can renew DVD rentals up to two times online at www.elpl.org.

Automatic Payments

Residents of East Lansing are encouraged to take advantage of the City's convenient automatic bill payment options.

Property taxes, water and sewer payments, childcare payments and annual membership to the East Lansing Hannah Community Center (ELHCC) can all be automatically withdrawn from East Lansing residents' checking or savings accounts using this fast and easy payment system.

Enrollment forms for property taxes and water and sewer payments are available online at www.cityofeastlansing.com and are also available at East Lansing City Hall, 410 Abbot Road. Residents can contact the East Lansing Treasury Department at (517) 319-6872 with questions or for more information.

The enrollment forms for childcare and the annual membership at ELHCC are available at the Bailey Community Center, 300 Bailey St., and ELHCC, 819 Abbot Road, respectively.

The annual membership to ELHCC includes access to the fitness facility, indoor pool and two gymnasiums. Visit www.cityofeastlansing.com/hannah to learn more.

Fall Events at Prime Time

Prime Time will host a number of events for the 55+ community this fall.

A Showcase Salad Luncheon and Open House will take place on Sept. 22 at noon. Attendees can enjoy a variety of salads and find out what new offerings will be available this fall at Prime Time. The cost is \$5.

A Health Fair and Flu Shots clinic will take place on Oct. 7 from 8 a.m.-

noon. Appointments are not needed and attendees should bring their Medicare card.

On Nov. 22 Prime Time will host its annual Thanksgiving Luncheon at noon and on Dec. 15 the annual Holiday Party will take place at noon.

All events are hosted at the East Lansing Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Road. Call (517) 337-1113 for more information.



The Community Relations Coalition, a nonprofit that works to build community in East Lansing, was one of four recipients of a 2011 Crystal Award.

Nominate an Unsung Hero for a 2012 Crystal Award

It's never too early to submit a nomination for the 2012 Crystal Awards.

The annual Crystal Awards, presented by the East Lansing City Council, recognize unsung heroes in the community who have gone above and beyond to enhance the quality of life in East Lansing. Community members' nominations are reviewed by a community selection committee and four recipients are selected to be honored at a special public reception in April.

Community members are encouraged to think of the unsung heroes in their lives and consider nominating them for a 2012 Crystal Award. Individuals, groups, organizations and businesses can be nominated. Past recipients are not eligible.

Visit www.cityofeastlansing.com/crystalawards to view eligibility criteria, learn about past recipients and submit an online nomination form. A form can also be printed from the website and mailed to East Lansing City Hall, 410 Abbot Road, East Lansing, MI 48823. Community members with questions can contact Ami Van Antwerp at (517) 319-6927.



A Great Pumpkin Walk participant looks ahead to the next business after trick-or-treating at Barnes & Noble Booksellers.

October Events to Include Pumpkin Walk, "Dracula"

Community members can get into the Halloween spirit at a number of events taking place this October.

The annual Great Pumpkin Walk will take place on Thursday, Oct. 27 from 5-7 p.m. in downtown East Lansing. Families are encouraged to bring their children to downtown in full costume to receive free door-to-door treats from more than 50 friendly downtown merchants. Each year, more than 1,000 trick-or-treaters pack East Lansing's downtown streets for this popular event.

In addition, the MSU Greek community annually

hosts Safe Halloween in conjunction with the Great Pumpkin Walk. The event features trick-or-treating, games and interaction with college students in one of East Lansing's predominantly Greek neighborhoods. This year's event will be held from 5:30-7:30 p.m. on Oct. 27 along M.A.C. Avenue, between Burcham Drive and Elizabeth Street.

In addition to these events, the All-of-us Express Children's Theatre will bring "Dracula" to the stage on Oct. 28-29 and Nov. 4-5. Learn more at www.cityofeastlansing.com/allofus.

New CRC Interns Gear Up for 2011-2012 School Year

As the MSU 2011-2012 school year kicks off, a new group of Community Relations Coalition (CRC) interns are gearing up for a busy, fun-filled year.

The CRC, a nonprofit that works to enhance relationships and build community within East Lansing's diverse neighborhoods, has hired 12 new interns for the new school year. These interns, all MSU undergraduate students, will be living and working in the Bailey, Oakwood and Red Cedar neighborhoods. They will work to build community in these near-campus neighborhoods, where students and long-term residents live in close proximity to each other.

The interns will help host a variety of community events throughout the year and will serve as a resource for neighbors with questions regarding off-campus living.

To kick off the year, the CRC will host its annual neighborhood ice cream socials this September. All three events will take place from 6-7 p.m. and are free and open to all community members. The first event will take place on Thursday, Sept. 8 in the Oakwood neighborhood, outside of 630 Sunset Lane. The second event will take place on Wednesday, Sept. 14 in the Red Cedar neighborhood, outside of 1054 Marigold Ave. And the third event will take place on Wednesday, Sept. 21 in the Bailey neighborhood, outside of 361 Bailey St.

Community members are encouraged to come meet the new CRC interns and mingle with fellow neighbors at these special



Former CRC interns participate in the 2010 Bailey Neighborhood ice cream social.

events.

To learn more about the CRC and its groundbreaking work in the East Lansing community visit www.WeAllLiveHere.org.



The Spartan Big List, unveiled in 2010, provides students with helpful off-campus living resources.

New-And-Improved Spartan Big List

Students living off-campus for the first time this semester are encouraged to check out the CRC's Spartan Big List.

Created in 2010, Spartan Big List is a comprehensive link to a variety of off-campus living resources. The list was updated and revamped over the 2011 spring and summer semesters utilizing feedback from MSU students.

The new-and-improved site includes City and community resources, campus resources, a list of pertinent laws, partying tips, game day information, rental information, health and safety tips and more. Students can visit Spartan Big List at www.WeAllLiveHere.org. For additional information, students can visit www.offcampusliving.msu.edu.

Homecoming 2011

Show your Spartan and Trojan pride at the 2011 homecoming parades for Michigan State University (MSU) and East Lansing High School (ELHS).

MSU's homecoming parade is set for Friday, Oct. 21 at 6 p.m. The parade will begin at the intersection of Abbot Road and Burcham Drive and will travel south on Abbot Road, east on Grand River Avenue, south on Farm Lane and will conclude at the corner of Farm and Shaw lanes on campus. Community members are encouraged to come out for this annual green-and-white community celebration.

The ELHS homecoming parade will take place Friday, Sept. 30 at 5:30 p.m. The parade will head west on Burcham Drive from ELHS, south on M.A.C. Avenue, east on Albert Avenue, north on Bailey Street and then back to the high school. The game will follow at 7 p.m.

DIALOG



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Dialog Staff

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COMMUNITY EVENTS

East Lansing Farmer's Market

Sundays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. through Oct. 30

The East Lansing Farmer's Market will be open on Sundays from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. through Oct. 30 in Valley Court Park (behind Crunchy's). The market is held rain or shine and includes a diverse mix of in-season Michigan produce and products. Visit www.cityofeastlansing.com/farmersmarket

One Book, One Community

www.onebookeastlansing.com

Community members are encouraged to participate in the 2011 One Book, One Community events hosted throughout the month of September. Events will include everything from writing workshops to film nights, a New York Wine Dinner, a scavenger hunt and more. Visit www.onebookeastlansing.com to learn more.

MSU Homecoming Parade

Oct. 21 at 6 p.m.

Community members are encouraged to show their Spartan pride by lining the streets for MSU's homecoming parade. The parade route will start at the intersection of Abbot Road and Burcham Drive, head south on Abbot Road, east on Grand River Avenue, south on Farm Lane (via Collingwood entrance) and end at the intersection of Farm and Shaw lanes.

Great Pumpkin Walk

Oct. 27 from 5-7 p.m.

Children are invited to trick-or-treat with participating downtown East Lansing businesses at the Great Pumpkin Walk. Children can come in costume for this popular annual Halloween event. More than 100 friendly downtown merchants participate!

Dracula: The Vampire Play

Oct. 28-29, Nov. 4-5

The All-of-us Express Children's Theatre will bring "Dracula: The Vampire Play" to the East Lansing Hannah Community Center stage this fall. Friday performances will take place at 7 p.m. and Saturday performances will take place at 2 p.m. and 4:30 p.m. For more information, visit www.cityofeastlansing.com/allofus.

General Election

Nov. 8, 7 a.m.-8 p.m.

Eligible voters are encouraged to participate in the Nov. 8 General Election. The election will serve to fill three East Lansing City Council seats and one East Lansing School Board seat. Visit www.cityofeastlansing.com/elections for polling locations, a voter registration application, a list of candidates and more. The voter registration deadline is Tuesday, Oct. 11.

