

FOCUS

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

JULY 2025

INTERNATIONAL FLAVORS OF LANSING

**Region's Restaurants
Boast Diverse Tastes**

IN THIS ISSUE

Congratulations 2024-25 Leadership Lansing Graduates!

Top Issues for Lansing Voters in 2025

Townhall with Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson



David Stafford, Stafford-Smith, Inc.



Capital Area Housing Partnership



Mitch and Emily Nol, Harvest Health Foods



City of Lansing

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feature

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TIM DAMAN
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CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



Our strategic plan continues to position the LRCC as a catalyst for business growth and regional success.

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAMBER

Midyear Momentum: LRCC Advancing Strategic Priorities

As we reach the halfway point of 2025, the Lansing Regional Chamber of Commerce (LRCC) is proud to reflect on a productive and high-impact first six months—driven by the strategic pillars that guide our work: Excellent Operations, Business Value, Policy Influence, and Regional Leadership.

Our strategic plan continues to position the LRCC as a catalyst for business growth and regional success. Highlights from the first half of the year include:

- **5-Star Reaccreditation** from the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, reaffirming our commitment to excellence in leadership and governance.
- **88% membership retention** with 1,055 active members and 79 new members welcomed into our network.
- **Member engagement** is at 49%, up five percentage points year-over-year, and is currently 75% of the way toward our annual goal of 65%.
- **Event Participation** has been strong, with more than 3,600 registrations across signature programs such as the Economic Club, Business Education Series, Policy Forum, and the Annual Dinner.
- **Marketing and Communications** has expanded our reach, with over 49,000 social media engagements and 72,000 website visits fueled by FOCUS Magazine, our digital platforms, and targeted campaigns.
- **Policy leadership** remains a top priority, reflected in 38 business roundtables hosted that connected over 1,000 business leaders with federal, state, and local policymakers to advance pro-business advocacy on key issues, including workforce, taxation, infrastructure, and regulation.
- **The 2025 State of the Region Benchmarking Report** was released, providing critical insight into the region's economic competitiveness.

Looking ahead, our advocacy efforts will continue to focus on pressing issues such as proposed changes to the corporate income tax and ballot initiatives affecting the minimum wage and tip credit laws.

The momentum is real—and it's only growing. We remain committed to delivering the resources, connections, and leadership that our members value most. We thank you for your continued support and look forward to an even stronger second half of 2025. ♦

CHECK OUT THE LANSING JOB BOARD!

It's a one-stop shop for job opportunities in the Lansing region and allows LRCC members with the ability to post their job openings.

Learn more at lansingchamber.org

Thank You Renewing Members

AARP	EDL Energy	Ohana Sushi
Abell Pest Control	Ele's Place	Piper & Gold Public Relations
Air Lift Company	Endeavor IT	The Recovery Project
Alma Tire Companies	Fairfax Apartments	Restoration 1 of East Lansing
Art Craft Display, Inc.	The Graduate East Lansing	Riverwalk Theatre (Community Circle Players)
Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Tomie Raines Realtors	High Caliber Karting & Entertainment	Ross Woodstock Coaching and Consulting, LLC
Bitely Communications	Holy Cross Services/New Hope Center	RSDC of Michigan
Builders Hardware Co	Jack Miceli - Edward Jones	StrikeOut Baseball USA
By Dawn's Early Light Home Care Services Inc.	JEM Cleaning LLC	T.A. Forsberg, Inc.
Cafecito Caliente	Jungle Jane Promotions	Tandem Studios
Cawood Building Co.	JWR Enterprises LLC	Thatch Computer Consulting
Century 21 Looking Glass - Mark Holcomb	Lansing Regional Sister Cities Commission	Townsquare Media
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Cinnaire Corporation	Lavender Dental	Uno Deuce Multimedia
Clinton Transit	Life Insurance Association of Michigan	Value Engineering, LLC
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Culligan Water Conditioning of Lansing	Michigan Bankers Association	
Dart Bank	Michigan Certified Development Corporation (MCDC)	
Doggy Daycare and Spa	Michigan Legislative Consultants	
DoorDash	Mid Michigan Medicare	
DTN Management Co.	Neogen Corporation	

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www.lansingtwpmi.gov
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Lansing, MI 48917

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www.thelocalepicurean.com/east-lansing
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East Lansing, MI 48823

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(517) 862-1899
www.bill-burke.net
Okemos, MI 48864

The 601 Group

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www.601-group.com
Lansing, MI

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www.roofmaxx.com/find-a-dealer/michigan/lansing

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East Lansing, MI 48823

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www.forcrepesake.com
211 M.A.C. Ave.
East Lansing, MI 48823

Chamber Townhall with Michigan Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson



Secretary Benson speaks with LRCC members during the event.

The Lansing Regional Chamber of Commerce recently welcomed Michigan Secretary of State and Democratic gubernatorial candidate Jocelyn Benson for a dynamic Chamber Townhall. As the 43rd Secretary of State, Benson outlined her priorities for Michigan's future, including strengthening education, securing sustainable road funding, and supporting small business growth. Chamber members engaged in a thoughtful discussion about the state's economic direction and the importance of strong public-private partnerships. Benson emphasized her commitment to building a Michigan where businesses and communities can thrive. ♦

Chamber Milestones

Michigan State University (MSU)

65 years

Meridian Mall Office

45 years

Foresight Group, LLC

35 years

Michigan Chamber of Commerce

35 years

NTH Consultants, Ltd.

25 years

TechSmith Corporation

25 years

Honigman, LLP

20 years

Mercantile Bank

20 years

Thrun Law Firm, P.C.

20 years

DeBruin Law PLLC

10 years

Douglas J Companies

5 years

Love's Travel Stops & Country Stores

5 years

Spectrum Consulting Group

5 years

Tru Solutions Commercial Painting

5 years

U.S. Army Recruiting Battalion

5 years

Volaris Lansing (Trilogy Real Estate Group, LLC)

5 years

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



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Michigan's R&D Credit is Back

By Kyle Ireland, CPA, Rehmann

You don't need to be a manufacturer to take advantage of Michigan's reinstated Research and Development (R&D) Tax Credit. Businesses of all sizes, in various sectors, can once again reduce their tax liabilities by tens of thousands of dollars for qualified R&D activity conducted in the state of Michigan.



Kyle Ireland, CPA,
Rehmann

Rehmann

EMPOWER YOUR PURPOSE

CREDIT CATEGORIES

Designed to encourage innovation and stimulate economic growth in Michigan, the initiative is effective for tax years beginning on or after Jan. 1, 2025. Large and small businesses can qualify, and both may be eligible for additional bonus credits:

- **Large Businesses:** Companies with 250 or more employees can claim a credit based on a percentage of their qualified research expenditures (QREs), with a maximum credit of \$2 million per year.
- **Small Businesses:** Businesses with fewer than 250 employees can claim a credit based on a percentage of their QREs, capped at \$250,000 annually.
- **University Collaboration:** Businesses that collaborate with Michigan-based research universities may be eligible for an additional bonus credit, up to \$200,000 per year.

EARMARKED PORTION FOR SMALL BUSINESSES

The program has an overall annual cap of \$100 million, with \$25 million specifically reserved for small businesses. If the tentative credits claimed exceeds the allocated funds, the Michigan Department of Treasury will prorate the credits proportionally among qualifying taxpayers.

FILING & DEADLINES

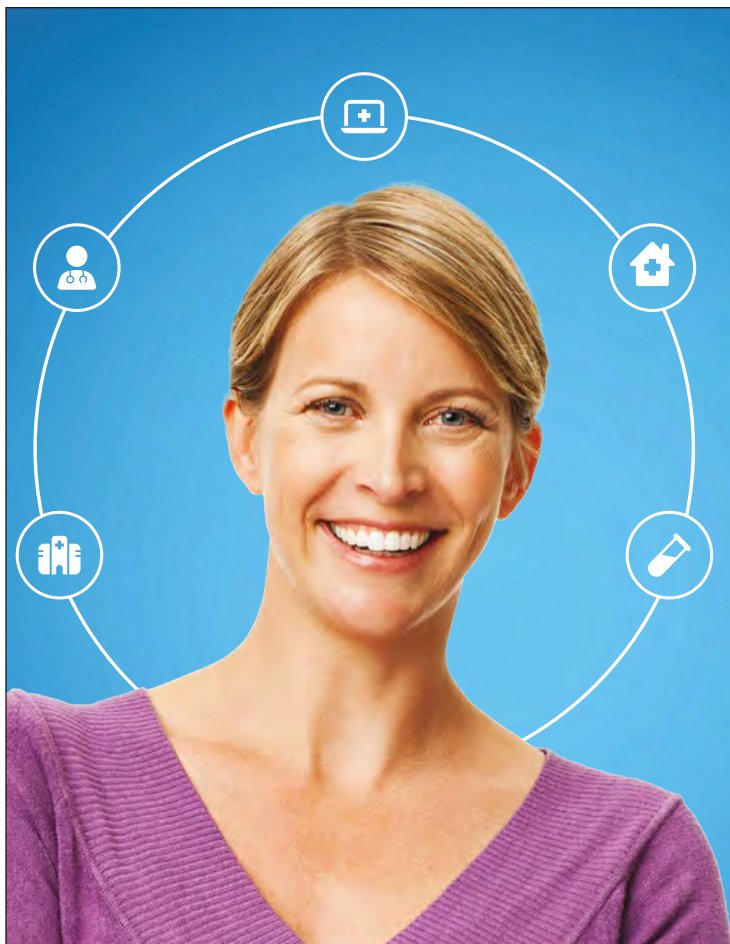
For C-Corporations, the credit will be claimed on Form 4891 – Michigan Corporate Income Tax Annual Return. For flow-through entities (Sole Proprietorships, Partnerships and S-Corporations), the credit will be claimed on Form 5081 - Sales, Use and Withholding Taxes Annual Return.

To claim the Michigan R&D Tax Credit for qualifying R&D expenses incurred during calendar year 2025, taxpayers must submit a tentative claim to the Michigan Department of Treasury by April 1, 2026. For R&D expenses incurred in calendar years after 2025, taxpayers must submit their tentative claims by March 15 of the following year. Tentative claims will not be accepted by Treasury after the statutory deadline.

MAKE IT A TWOFER

The Michigan R&D Tax Credit, which can be combined with the **federal R&D tax credit**, provides a powerful incentive for businesses to invest in research and development. This state-level incentive positions Michigan as a competitive location for innovation, offering significant tax benefits for businesses that drive technological advancement and economic growth. ♦

Kyle Ireland is a tax and advisory manager based in Rehmann's Lansing office.
Kyle.Ireland@rehmann.com




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Congratulations 2024-2025 Leadership Lansing Graduates!



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LAFCU



Amber Baker
Eaton RESA



Nicholas Baker
Innovare



Krista Beyer
YMCA of
Metropolitan
Lansing



Jerry Block
Peckham



Ashley Cresser
Alzheimer's
Association



Joe Dimambro
Playmakers Fitness
Foundation



Krista Dowling
Michigan Health
& Hospital
Association (MHA)



Sergio Franco
GM-General Motors
Lansing Operations



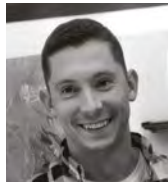
Laura Friestrom
Farm Bureau
Insurance



Angie Goodman
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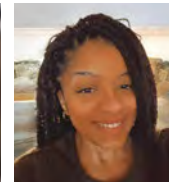
Ashley Gregory
McLaren Greater
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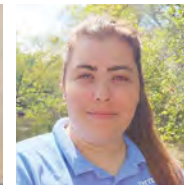
Andre Manuel
Lansing Board of
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Connor McCarthy
Mercantile Bank



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Oleksyk**
Blue Cross Blue
Shield of Michigan



Erin O'Rourke
Potter Park
Zoological Society



Christine Pearson
Granger



Kari Pollok
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Lansing



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Capital Steel & Wire



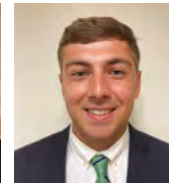
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Ridderbusch**
MSU Federal
Credit Union



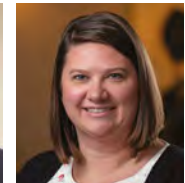
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Dean Trailways of
Michigan



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Maner Costerisan



Keaton Sackett
Plante Moran



Hilary Sasyk
University Club
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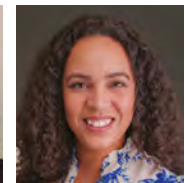
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Elaine Unger
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Empowering the Next Generation of Leaders Through LRCC Leadership Programs

In an ever-evolving business landscape, investing in leadership development is no longer optional—it's essential. The Lansing Regional Chamber of Commerce (LRCC) is proud to offer a suite of leadership programs that empower professionals at all levels to grow, connect, and lead with purpose. Through Leadership Lansing, Inclusive Leadership, and ATHENA WIN Aspiring Leaders, LRCC provides intentional, high-impact experiences designed to build stronger individuals, teams, and organizations.

WHY EMPLOYERS SHOULD INVEST

Supporting employees' participation in these programs is more than professional development—it's a strategic investment in your organization's future. Participants gain practical skills, fresh perspectives, and expanded networks that they bring back to the workplace. They return energized, empowered, and better equipped to lead teams, drive innovation, and foster inclusive cultures, with a renewed sense of purpose.



*Sarah Bakken,
Talent Development
Manager, Lansing
Regional Chamber of
Commerce*

"Each of our programs is intentionally designed to meet professionals where they are in their leadership journey," said Sarah Bakken, Talent Development Manager at the Lansing Regional Chamber of Commerce. "Whether someone is building confidence in their first leadership role or driving inclusive change at the executive level, our programs provide the tools, structure, and community to support that growth."

Programs Overview

Leadership Lansing is an eight-month cohort-based program for rising and established professionals seeking a deeper understanding of the region and their role in shaping its future. Participants engage directly with leaders from business, government, education, and nonprofit sectors, gaining an insider's view of the issues, opportunities, and assets that shape our community.

Inclusive Leadership is a newly launched, year-long program designed for professionals who are committed



to creating cultures of equity and belonging. Through a combination of personal leadership development, expert-led learning, and peer engagement, participants explore how to lead inclusively, build trust, and influence positive change within their organizations and communities. Facilitated by Dr. Tonya C. Bailey, this program is rooted in self-awareness, trust-building, and courageous leadership.

ATHENA WIN Aspiring Leaders is a seven-month mentorship and development program focused on supporting women in leadership. Designed for early- to mid-career professionals, the program offers structured monthly discussions, one-on-one mentorship, and group learning opportunities. Participants are paired with experienced mentors and provided with resources to strengthen their leadership skills and personal growth.

WHO SHOULD PARTICIPATE?

- Early- and mid-career professionals who are ready to grow in leadership and impact
- Team leads and managers looking to build inclusive and collaborative work environments
- Executives and HR professionals focused on equity-driven leadership development and committed to inclusive excellence
- Women leaders seeking mentorship, connection, and professional advancement

No matter where you or your employees are in their journey, LRCC leadership programs meet them where they are—and help take them where they want to go.

For more information and to apply, visit lansingchamber.org. ♦

INTERNATIONAL FLAVORS OF LANSING

Region's Restaurants Boast Diverse Tastes

By Jennifer McEntee



Choose Lansing

IF YOU'RE TO VISIT **SIRAJ RESTAURANT**

on South Waverly Road in Lansing, you'll likely be met with the enticing aromas of chicken shawarma, falafel, or lamb kabob, freshly baked pita bread, or even za'atar manakish, a traditional flatbread coated with thyme, sumac, and sesame seeds.

Behind the counter, you might meet owner Khaled Eshkuntana, an entrepreneur who can suggest which menu item might sate your cravings for Middle Eastern cuisine.

What you might not get from this encounter is the extraordinary means by which this authentic fare has made its way to a shopping center on the southwest side of Lansing. Eshkuntana and his family fled Jordan in 2012 amid political and economic unrest. They resettled in Lansing with the help of Catholic Charities of Ingham, Eaton, and Clinton Counties.

Eshkuntana and his family were able to open their halal-style restaurant here in 2018, bringing a taste of their home to the community that welcomed them. Siraj is derived from the Arabic word "siraaj," meaning lamp or torch.

"I opened the restaurant because I like to help the community," Eshkuntana said in a recent interview with FOCUS magazine, explaining that his dishes are healthy

and satisfying. "I make good food."

It's a family business staffed entirely by Eshkuntana's kin, including three sons. He'd like to hire more people— and he made a brief attempt at opening a second Lansing location— but running a small business in the current economy is difficult.

"The business is not easy," Eshkuntana said. "Everything is just slow. The grocery prices go up."

Eshkuntana said he and his family are happy to have settled in Lansing, where opportunity abounds. They are just one of many immigrant families who have brought their unique flavors to the Lansing region, making it a fortuitous culinary destination for international cuisine.

MELTING POT

Catholic Charities of Ingham, Eaton, and Clinton Counties has been helping refugees resettle in the Lansing region for about 50 years, with services including employment assistance, financial literacy classes, and connections to community resources.





Refugees are distinct among migrants in that they are fleeing persecution in their home country for reasons including race, religion, and political opinions. Their safety is at risk.

In 2024, Catholic Charities of Ingham, Eaton, and Clinton Counties served 1,182 refugees, including helping 143 find local employment. Since 1975, the Catholic agency estimates it has helped more than 17,000 refugees from 60 countries get a fresh start in Lansing.

There's an economic benefit to welcoming new people to the community. According to state labor data, more than half of Michigan's immigrant population is of working age (64.4 percent) versus the non-immigrant population (50.8 percent). Catholic Charities of Ingham, Eaton, and Clinton Counties connects refugees with more than 20 local employers, while many refugees go on to start their own businesses.

Joe Garcia, CEO of Catholic Charities of Ingham, Eaton, and Clinton Counties, said refugee-run restaurants like Siraj and nearby Noosh Afghan Cuisine are model examples of the benefits of the refugee services program.

"We're very proud of their effort and of their braveness to make the journey and to maximize the opportunity that they were given, and with great evidence every day with the success of their restaurant operations," Garcia said.

LOCAL APPEAL

The restaurant scene is an important component in attracting visitors to the Lansing region and ultimately bolstering

the local economy, according to Melissa Nay, director of membership and community engagement for Choose Lansing.

"When people travel, their top things that they are looking for are, first off, where they're going to stay. That's a big one. But then they're deciding where they're going to eat, where they're going to shop, and what they're going to do," Nay said. "And they want to try something that's local to that area versus another chain restaurant."

Lansing Shuffle along Lansing's riverfront is a one-stop shop for international cuisines described as "elevated local street food." Takitos AF offers taquitos, aguas frescas, and churros. Yeti Kitchen serves Himalayan dishes like momos, sesame gobi, and butter chicken. Kin Thai makes Southeast Asian noodles, rice, and milk teas. Beruit Kitchen offers Mediterranean fare, from samosas to gyro sandwiches. And if someone in your group prefers an American burger and fries, the food hall also includes Brown Dog at the Shuffle.

"That place alone is a huge destination for a lot of people to go because they can try all these different international foods in one place," Nay said.

Elsewhere in the Lansing region, Nay encourages visitors to try out mid-Michigan's only Peruvian restaurant, Tantay Peruvian Cuisine in Okemos, and the newly opened Jollof Afro-Caribbean Lounge in downtown Lansing.

Nay has her own local favorites for international flavors, including Pablo's Mexican Restaurant and Everyday Authentic Chinese Cuisine.





She encourages locals and tourists alike to support Lansing's small businesses when looking for a good meal.

"We see 6.7 million visitors annually who bring \$732 million in economic impact to the region. So it's a huge amount of business. When I talk with restaurants in particular, especially during COVID times, all these restaurant owners were struggling to keep their doors open. They were struggling, and their livelihood was at stake. Restaurants are a special breed."

LET'S EAT

Erin Brains cofounded the Lansing Foodies online community in 2017 with her husband, James. They were new to the region and wanted the inside scoop on the best local dining.

"I love all food, and I was so excited when I realized that there's food from all around the world here," Brains said.



"Just having all the different options and trying all the different foods was really exciting to me."

Lansing Foodies has since grown to more than 80,000 members, sharing photos and recommendations about local restaurants on Facebook.

"We also have lists. We'll take polls. It's like, 'Hey, who is the best at this type of food in the area?' You know, 'Who's got the best tacos?' And people will weigh in and give their opinion, which is really great if you're ever wondering what's for dinner," explained Brains.

Lansing Foodies also hosts events like the Olive Burger Festival, next planned for 2026, and is planning a chili cookoff event with the Lansing Lugnuts for this October.

Since immersing in the Lansing food scene, Brains and her family have found some of their own favorites.



“There’s just so much really good, delicious Middle Eastern or Mediterranean food around here,” she said. “And then there’s Bento Kitchen Cravings. They do Korean fusion. They’re always trying out new things. They’ll have birria ramen sometimes, or bulgogi burritos. It’s just really delicious, well-made food.”

Tantay Peruvian Cuisine has been a wonderful addition to the community, Brain said. “I would highly recommend Tantay if you want to have a really amazing meal with a very unique flavor profile,” she said.

Brains has also been pleased with the availability of Ethiopian, Indian, and Vietnamese food in the Lansing region. The only cuisine that might be missing here is a Hawaiian-specific eatery since Aloha Cookin’ moved to Troy, Michigan.

While the flavors may be international, Brains said there’s an inherent value in eating locally in Lansing.

“I think that our local businesses are doing amazing things; they’re trying really hard. They really care about what they’re doing, and it helps our local economy so much when we are able to support them,” Brains said. ♦



Related Links

Lansing Foodies Best Restaurants List
www.lansingfoodies.com/best-of-lansing-lists

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Strikeout Baseball Brings the Game Back to the Neighborhood

Strikeout Baseball officially opened its first stadium on June 6th, drawing hundreds from the community— including MLB Hall of Famer John Smoltz—to celebrate a new era of youth baseball. The grand opening marked the beginning of a movement to make the game more accessible, affordable, and exciting for kids across the region.

Featured nationally during Baseball Night in America on FOX during the Red Sox vs. Yankees and Padres vs. Brewers broadcasts, Strikeout Baseball is gaining attention for its innovative approach. At its core is a miniature stadium where games can be played with as few as two participants, removing the need for large teams, costly gear, or long seasons.

This “show-up-and-play” model is paired with free community clinics, providing neighborhood kids with the opportunity to learn the game in a fun, family-friendly environment.

“Growing up, baseball was a way of life. It’s incredibly



exciting to bring this concept to Lansing and to see the impact it could have in growing the game for future generations,” said Jeff Lazaros, creator of Strikeout Baseball.

Smoltz added, “Strikeout Baseball will reinvigorate young people’s interest in this great game—and, frankly, offer a Field of Dreams in the shadow of the Capitol.”

Inspired by Lazaros and Smoltz, Strikeout Baseball USA is a grassroots movement dedicated to revitalizing youth baseball—starting with its flagship installation in Michigan.

To host a clinic, support or learn more, visit www.StrikeoutBaseballUSA.org. ♦

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LRC-PAC Endorses Business-Focused Leaders for 2025 Lansing City Elections

The LRC-PAC proudly backs candidates committed to small business, neighborhood revitalization, and forward-looking leadership.

2025 ENDORSED CANDIDATES

MAYOR

Andy Schor – Delivering results on infrastructure, housing, and small business support.

AT-LARGE

Jeremy Garza – Skilled tradesman championing local jobs and youth programs.

Clara Martinez – Educator advancing equity, housing, and opportunity.

Aurelius Christian – Economic specialist focused on public safety and workforce growth.

2ND WARD

Deyanira Nevarez Martinez – Urban planner driving inclusive growth and small business advocacy.

4TH WARD

Peter Spadafore – Proven leader on roads, safety, and revitalization. ♦

The LRC-PAC is the political arm of the Lansing Regional Chamber, supporting pro-growth, results-driven leadership. No membership dues are used for any political efforts. Learn more at lansingchamber.org/lrc-pac



Community conversation during recent Chamber policy roundtable.

Top Issues for Lansing Voters in 2025

A recent survey of Lansing voters reveals strong engagement heading into the 2025 city elections, with over 92% of respondents saying they are “very likely” to vote.

The top concerns shaping the race include road and infrastructure maintenance (26.7%), affordable housing and homelessness (23%), and public safety (18.9%). Voters also identified education, economic opportunity, and neighborhood revitalization as priorities for city leadership.

These insights highlight the community’s desire for smart investment in core services and long-term economic growth.

Polling conducted by LRCC member Greenlee Consulting Services. ♦



26.7%

**Road and
Infrastructure
Maintenance**



23%

**Housing and
Homelessness**



18.9%

**Public
Safety**



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Lansing Regional Chamber of Commerce Launches 125th Anniversary Logo Design Contest



To commemorate its 125th anniversary, the Lansing Regional Chamber of Commerce (LRCC) is excited to announce a special logo design contest. This initiative invites designers, artists, and community members to create a logo that reflects the Chamber's legacy of leadership and its vision for the future.



The selected design will serve as the official logo for the 125th anniversary celebration and will be featured across a variety of platforms.

The selected design will serve as the official logo for the 125th anniversary celebration and will be featured across a variety of platforms, including digital media, printed materials, merchandise, and event promotions. As the Chamber marks over a century of service to the Greater Lansing region, this contest offers a creative way to engage the community and celebrate a milestone in a meaningful, visible way.

The logo should capture the essence of LRCC's long-standing commitment to regional business growth, innovation, and collaboration, while also looking ahead to the future. Designs must include the text "125th Anniversary" and the name of the Lansing Regional Chamber of Commerce.

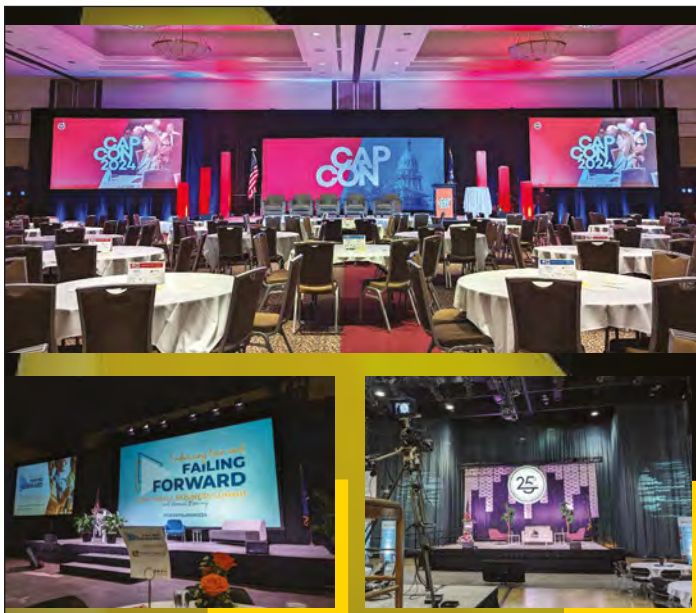
Submitted logos should be original, versatile, and suitable for use in a range of sizes and formats. Participants are encouraged to consider how their design will represent the Chamber's history, mission, and values. Designs should avoid the use of copyrighted images or elements.

Along with their design, participants should submit a brief description explaining the concept and inspiration behind their logo. The Chamber will review all submissions and select a design that best represents the spirit of the 125th anniversary.

This contest is a unique opportunity for the community to take part in shaping how this important milestone will be remembered and recognized. The Lansing Regional Chamber of Commerce looks forward to seeing the creativity and vision shared through each submission as it prepares to celebrate 125 years of service and progress.

The Chamber extends a special thank-you to **RetroDuck.com**, proud sponsor of the 125th Anniversary Logo Competition, for their generous support in making this contest possible.

For more information on how to participate, visit members.lansingchamber.org/125logocompetition. Deadline for design submission is July 31, 2025. ♦



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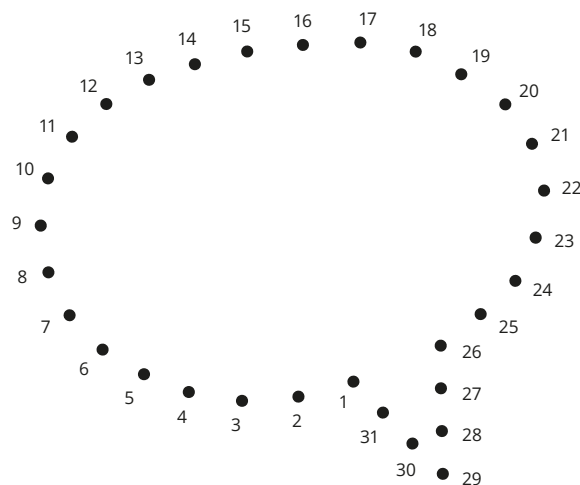
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Accelerating Innovation: IONETIX Expansion Powers Lansing's MedTech Future

By Katie Goble, Digital Marketing Intern, LEAP

The Lansing Region's growing reputation as a hub for high-tech medical innovation has gained a powerful boost with IONETIX's recent announcement of a major expansion at its Delta township facility located at 6424 Westland Way. The advanced radiopharmaceutical company is investing \$27.75 million to enhance its operations with a second superconducting cyclotron and a state-of-the-art isotope processing laboratory—an expansion that is expected to create 53 high-skill jobs in the region.

Founded in 2009 at MIT's Plasma Science and Infusion Center, IONETIX is renowned for their development of superconducting cyclotrons. The machines are essential for medical diagnostics, including targeted alpha therapy (TAT)—a promising cancer treatment method that precisely targets tumors while sparing healthy tissues.

"IONETIX's expansion is creating high-value jobs and elevating the Lansing Region within the global medical technology landscape," said Bob Trezise, president and CEO of the Lansing Economic Area Partnership (LEAP). "LEAP is proud to support this project and the ecosystem of innovative MedTech companies making our region a destination for biomedical research and economic opportunity."

That spirit of innovation and opportunity was on full display at a recent community event held at the IONETIX facility, where regional leaders and stakeholders gathered to celebrate the ribbon cutting of the facility expansion and additional cyclotron.

"Delta Township and the Lansing region offer the ideal environment for IONETIX's continued growth," said Kevin J. Cameron, CEO of IONETIX. "The area's highly skilled workforce, robust infrastructure, and strong spirit of public-private collaboration make it the perfect location for our expansion."

With strong academic anchors like Michigan State University, which holds the No. 2 national ranking in nuclear physics, and a thriving coalition of life sciences, healthcare, and technology leaders through Michigan's Health Core, the Lansing Region is rapidly emerging as a national MedTech powerhouse.

The project was awarded a \$750,000 incentive from the Michigan Business Development Program, a reflection of the strong presence of radiopharmaceutical manufacturing to the state's economy and innovation ecosystem.

Thanks to the strategic partnership between IONETIX and state and local organizations like Lansing Economic Area Partnership (LEAP), Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC), and Delta Township, we are ensuring a strong pipeline of skilled talent and high-level job opportunities are maintained.

The IONETIX expansion is more than a business growth story—it's a reaffirmation that global innovation can and does thrive right here in Mid-Michigan.

To learn more about the Lansing region's growing MedTech hub, and our global push towards accessible medical care, visit michiganshealthcore.com. ♦

Members on the Move

NEW HIRES



Dow

Lindsay Dow has joined **Douglas J Institutes and Salons** as director of marketing. Dow will lead and implement strategic marketing strategies across Douglas

J Institutes and Salons to attract prospective students to its six campuses and drive new guests to its salons across Michigan.



Fox

Krissy Fox has joined the **Okemos Salon and MedSpa** as their newest full-time injectionist. Fox began her beauty career in 2010 at the Douglas J Aveda Institute,

where she trained in cosmetology. She pursued a nursing degree to specialize in Botox and fillers. She is now a licensed RN with advanced injectable training.



Miller



Garcia

M3 Group, a full-service marketing and branding agency with offices in Lansing and Detroit, announced three recent additions to its team. **Allison Miller** joined



Best

M3 Group as a creative visionary, bringing experience in developing digital and print designs for academic institutions and freelance clients. **Manny Garcia** rejoined M3 Group as a senior client strategist, focusing on proactively expanding client portfolios and delivering strategic marketing solutions. M3 Group also welcomed **Josh Best** as creative director, overseeing the agency's visual direction.



Otten

the Custom Built office. She keeps day-to-day operations running smoothly, from answering and directing calls to maintaining an inviting office environment.

Custom Built recently hired **Emily Otten** as a hospitality specialist. She welcomes clients and guests as the first friendly face they see when visiting



Cervantes



Sprague

LAFCU has made two recent additions to its team. As business development and growth officer in the marketing department, **Sean Cervantes** will focus on membership growth. As business development officer in the lending department, **Lisa Sprague** will be responsible for planning, developing, and strengthening community and business relationships. Cervantes brings more than 13 years of management experience to LAFCU, including six years in the credit union industry. His most recent role was as the indirect/dealer relations manager

and community development manager at a Lansing-based credit union. Sprague previously served as a business manager at Kia of Lansing, where she focused on business development activities, as a licensed Realtor at Broker's Realty in Lansing.



Fast

office manager for the Michigan State University hockey program, where she was instrumental in managing operations and coordinating high-profile events. In her new role, Fast will support the planning and execution of local sporting events and help drive operational excellence across the organization.

The **Lansing Sports Commission** has hired **Lindsay Fast** as sports services manager. Fast brings over six seasons of experience as executive secretary and

AWARDS



Morgan

law. Morgan is president of Fraser Trebilcock and has over 30 years of litigation experience in state and federal courts in areas including commercial and business disputes, employment and shareholder litigation, construction, health care, real estate, insurance, and intellectual property. He is a former assistant prosecutor and assistant attorney general.

Fraser Trebilcock shareholder **Thaddeus Morgan** has been recognized by Michigan Lawyers Weekly as a "Michigan Go-To Lawyer" in 2025 for construction

Julie Pingston of **Choose Lansing** was recently recognized with the Legacy Award at the 2025 Pure



Pingston

Michigan Governor's Conference on Tourism. The award honors leaders and visionaries in the Michigan tourism industry and is presented to a person

or organization that has positively impacted the industry in a transformative way. Pingston began her career in tourism with the U.S. Travel & Tourism Administration within the Department of Commerce in Washington, D.C. She joined Choose Lansing in 1993 and was named president and CEO in March 2020, leading the Choose Lansing team in promoting the region as a visitor destination. She also serves as president of the Michigan Association of Convention and Visitors Bureaus.

Lansing Community College's TV commercial, which aired during the Detroit Lions' playoff run, was

named one of the nation's best local TV commercials for an educational institution at the 46th Annual Telly Awards. The Telly Awards honors excellence in video and television across all screens and is judged by leaders from video platforms, television, streaming networks, and production companies. The ad, "LCC Underdogs," brought home a Bronze Telly. LCC's winning commercial was created entirely in-house. The script, filming, and editing were done by LCC employees **Dave Wasinger** and **Craig Jones** of media services, along with **Layne Ingram** from the president's office.

COMPANY NEWS

Bill Burke, former Michigan State University quarterback and peak performance coach, recently delivered a keynote address titled "Who Could You Become" to the **Granger Construction** team. The event took place at MSU's Tom Izzo Football Building. Burke drew from his experience on the field



and in the boardroom to challenge Granger executives to think bigger, lead bolder, and operate with relentless discipline. Granger Construction invited Burke as part of its ongoing investment in leadership development and culture.

Lansing-based **The Christman Company** has placed at number 75 on The Engineering News-Record's 2025 "ENR 400" list of the top 400 contractors nationally, rising 12 spots in the last year. Overall rankings were calculated according to 2024 construction revenue. For the first time, the Christman Company made the ENR Top 50 list for domestic building/manufacturing revenue, ranking at number 46. ♦

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Chamber in Action



The Lansing Regional Chamber of Commerce, along with its Ambassadors, congratulates **The Meridian Company** on their grand re-opening, celebrating the completion of their facility remodel at 1999 E. Saginaw Street in East Lansing!



The Lansing Regional Chamber of Commerce congratulates **Consumers Credit Union** on their ribbon-cutting ceremony celebrating the opening of their new Lake Lansing location, located at 2305 Lake Lansing Rd!



The Lansing Regional Chamber of Commerce (LRCC), along with its ambassadors, congratulates **Everlasting Leadership** on becoming a new member with a ribbon-cutting ceremony at the LRCC office!



The Lansing Regional Chamber of Commerce, along with its Ambassadors, congratulates **Handyman Connections** on their Grand Opening at 3721 W. Michigan Avenue Suite 202 in Lansing!



The Lansing Regional Chamber of Commerce, along with its Ambassadors and guests, celebrated the grand opening of **Capital City Sweets**, located at 3112 E. Michigan Ave. in Lansing!



The Lansing Regional Chamber of Commerce congratulates **County National Bank** on their grand opening in East Lansing, located at 3100 West Rd.!



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▶ Scene 1

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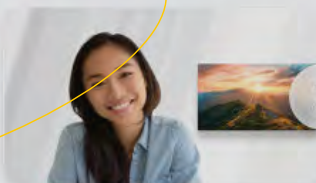
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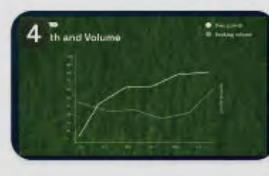
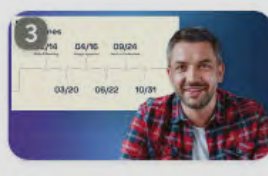
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