



# SHOP LOCAL

*Lansing*

June/July Edition 2017

## BE A TOURIST

*in Your Own Town*

JUNE 3, 2017

## MICHIGAN HISTORY MUSEUM

FIVE LEVELS OF PERMANENT AND SHORT-TERM EXHIBITS

## Ingham County Parks

SUMMER LIVING OUTDOORS

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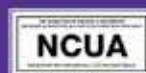
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*Featuring Ingham County Park's,  
Lake Lansing North Boat Launch.*

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# LAM'S SWEEPER SHOP



☆ by Jessica Lam

When you step inside Lam's Sweeper Shop, you will see rows of vacuums, new and refurbished, walls aligned with belts and bags crucial for vacuum operations. Lam's Sweeper Shop has been helping the Greater Lansing area for over 25 years. Two brothers, John Lam run the store together. Together, they sell and service all different vacuum brands from the vintage sweepers to the modern self-cleaning robots.

With only one store in all of Michigan, some people may wonder how they are able to stay relevant and successful. "We try our best to help the customer as much as possible. We offer the lowest prices and we try to do things as efficiently as possible," commented John. They are the experts in the vacuum cleaner community and can answer just about any question regarding vacuums, easy or complex.

## Lam's Sweeper Shop Provides:

### Service & Repairs

Their technicians will let you know if your vacuums or other cleaning machines is worth repair for no cost. You will also find that they have low labor costs and fast turnaround times.

### Commercial Buffers and Burnisher Machines

Your business isn't complete without a clean showroom or office. You can purchase a big commercial vacuum for your business as well as buffer or burnisher machines to give it that extra touch. All of which are at reasonable prices. Parts and repair are also available.



### Sale & Resale of Vacuum Machines

They sell new and used vacuums, carpet cleaners, air purifiers, infrared heaters at Lam's Sweeper Shop. You'll find in their store a variety of residential and commercial cleaning machines.

### Cleaning Solutions

You will find a cleaning solution for nearly every type of floor at Lam's Sweeper Shop. You can even purchase fragrances to put in your vacuum to keep your home or business smelling fresh and clean.

### Bags, Belts and Other Parts

At a reasonable cost, you will find almost every single part, bag, filter, attachment or belt at this store. If they don't have it in stock, they will get it to you in a week or less.

Whether you are buying a vacuum for yourself, a family member, a recent graduate or for your business, John is able to help you find the perfect vacuum to fit your situation and needs. They are usually able to get it in your price range too! ☆

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# BE A TOURIST

## *in Your Own Town*

☆ by Amy Piper

### OVER 90 ATTRACTIONS FOR JUST A DOLLAR!

Be a Tourist in Your Own Town has a little something for everyone: families with children, nature lovers, sports fanatics, foodies, and art lovers. The event is designed to familiarize residents with all that Lansing has to offer.

**Mark your calendars for Saturday, June 3 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.** This year, according to Lori Lanspeary from the Greater Lansing Visitors and Convention Bureau (GLVCB), over 90 venues will participate in the event. Passports went on sale the first week of May at the GLVCB and other locations throughout the community.

The GLVCB partnered with CATA for your transportation needs, including dedicated bus routes to Old Town, MSU, and Potter Park Zoo. A bus ride costs fifty cents, then pick-up a transfer to receive transportation for the entire day for that same fifty cents. The pass covers the majority of the attractions but doesn't go to some of the outlying areas. Participants may also use their own transportation.

While Be a Tourist in Your Town is a one-day annual event, you can continue to collect passport stamps from designated locations throughout the month of June; however, standard admission prices may apply. Participants that submit passports with 15 or more stamps will be entered in drawings for prizes ranging from hotel overnights and dining gift certificates to the grand prize: a \$1,500 airline voucher from Capital Regional International Airport.

### FOR FAMILIES

Children can explore the educational displays at the MSU Bug House. For the brave, there'll be live bugs to handle. At Potter Park Zoo, celebrate International Migratory Bird Day with hands-on activities. See baby birds hatching, live birds of prey, and walk through the "Wings Down Under" exhibit. At the Meridian Mall, check out the Tinkrlab. It provides an opportunity to take things apart and create new inventions, build robots, and discover 3-D printing. Tinkrlab is an excellent opportunity for hands-on activities. Lastly take the kids to climb to the second story overlook at the Lansing Model Railroad Club to view model trains in action.

### FOR NATURE LOVERS

Enjoy Beal Botanical Garden, the oldest continuously operated university botanical garden of its kind in the United States. Two presentations will be available: Edible Plants in and for the Yard at 10:15 a.m. and Plants Toxic to Family and Pets at 2 p.m. In addition to the nature activities at Woldumar Nature Center, visit Harris Nature Center and connect with the great outdoors in the Nature Exploration Area. Discover the Michigan Fossil Dig where amateur paleontologists can dig for fossils and use signs to identify their finds. Celebrate National Trails Day. Pick up a map and a snack then hike some of the 20 miles of trails.

### SPORTS FANATICS

Play Bubble Soccer on the Capital Lawn or check out Battleball Lansing's new Battle Darts. The Lansing Sailing Club is offering free sailboat rides at Lake Lansing Park. Ships ahoy! Visit City Limits Bowling Center and get one free game of bowling per person or play a free game of adventure golf at Funtyme Adventure Park.





### FOR FOODIES

Appreciate the cheese tasting from Hills Cheese (while supplies last) at the Lansing City Market. Tour the kitchens at the Allen Market Place, a multi-functional food hub and learn about their gardening and health programs. Buy some produce to whip up a fresh meal at home. American Fifth Spirits is giving tours of Lansing's first distillery. Learn how they make handcrafted spirits and sample some of their offerings.

### FOR ART LOVERS

You will want to tour the BWL John Dye Water Conditioning Plant. The building is a beautiful Art Deco structure located on South Cedar Street. Here you can see the murals created by Frank Cassara and Charles Pollack depicting water. The WPA commissioned the murals to employ out of work artists during the depression.

Visit Absolute Gallery to construct a kids' art project and check out the art gallery. Lansing Art Gallery's free Art Encounter will encourage families to explore art through an interactive self-guided activity.

Some Local attractions are open for a limited time. For example, the Cooley Law School Stadium will give tours from noon to 5:00 p.m. – so check your passport for specific attractions.

### NEW ACTIVITIES FOR 2017

Lansing Maker's Network on St. Joe Highway joined the event this year. Tour the facility, see the tools and get your free customized laser cut. At the Capitol Region International Airport, take a behind-the-scenes tour of LAN, including a look at the facility, maintenance equipment, fire trucks, and even inside the cockpit of a plane. A free long-term parking coupon will be available. In Meridian Township at the HOMTV Studios tour, you can visit the television station and get in front of their Bluescreen, sit behind the news desk and learn how the magic happens.

For a complete list of passport selling locations, participating attractions, maps and more details, please visit [www.lansing.org/batyot](http://www.lansing.org/batyot). ☆



.....  
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# MICHIGAN HISTORY MUSEUM

☆ by Amy Piper

*With five levels of permanent and short-term exhibits that tell Michigan's story from prehistoric times through the late twentieth century, you may find yourself struggling to choose what to do first when you visit the Michigan History Museum. Enjoy the copper mine, stroll down Main Street or experience the one-room school house. Pick up a museum map and plan your strategy. From there, check out some of the museum's must-see exhibits.*

## MINDS OF MODERNISM – Michigan and Mid-Century Design

The Michigan History Center is made up of the Michigan History Museum and the Archives of Michigan. The Michigan History Center itself is featured front and center in the Minds of Modernism exhibition. The building's architect, William Kessler is also an artist. This exhibit tells the story of building the Michigan History Center and includes a display of Kessler's artistic work too. Another fun area is the mid-century modern living room, with the Jetsons playing on the television. **The exhibit continues until August 27, 2017.**

Mark Harvey, Interim Director of Community Engagement and Director of Achieves at the Michigan History Center reveals the next temporary exhibit will be, The River that Changed the World starring the Au Sable River. It will open on September 30, 2017.

## NINETEENTH CENTURY EXHIBIT

The museum just redesigned the nineteenth-century display. The new exhibit includes the first people of Michigan, and it's dramatically different now. Visitors can interact with the native life mural through pullback panels. The wall revolves around the seasons and includes more hands-on elements. In the archaeology section, you can piece a pot back together on a magnetized form. **Pull out discovery drawers demonstrate the types of items found at different levels of the soil.**



## AUTOMOTIVE THEMES

You can't have a museum about historical Michigan without an exhibit or two about cars. The Michigan History Museum has an exhibit depicting the 1957 Detroit Auto Show, featuring a shiny red Corvette convertible and a beige and white Plymouth Fury. A Durant Motors auto dealership and Ford's Highland Park workforce and manufacturing plant continue the automotive theme.

The museum uses many hands-on elements including interactive computers and audio-visual presentations. Plan to spend least 90 minutes for your visit.

Family days are the second Saturday of each month and engage families in fun innovative activities and art sculptures. You might find a maker box with hot wheels cars or a mini robot. **The kids walk away with something they've made.**





## SUMMER CAMPS

Dig Camp is an archaeology-based camp that concludes with an archaeological dig. Curious children who are fascinated with science, engineering, technology, or math will enjoy this experience. Dig camp will inspire youth ages eight to ten and eleven to thirteen to investigate our human past through digital quests and hands-on activities. Campers will discover new and exciting ways to explore the world around them. They will learn what archaeologists can figure out from an animal bone, a broken plate, or a change in soil color.

The new Curiosity Camp inspires nine to eleven-year-old children's interest in Michigan's stories. The Camp will expose campers to the best Lansing has to offer, from organic farming at the MSU Student Organic Garden where they gather from the garden in the morning and cook the bounty in the afternoon, to Maker spaces to the FBI. When they're not out exploring Lansing, kids will fill their time with a variety of curiosity-inspiring activities on site at the Michigan History Center — breakout-boxes, design challenges, and virtual reality. To register for either camp experiences go on-line to [www.seekingmichigan.org/camps](http://www.seekingmichigan.org/camps).

## SHOPPING THE MUSEUM STORE

The Michigan History Museum store offers a wide variety of items related to Michigan's history and the region. *"Today, the store is carrying more made-in-Michigan products and the retail items are tying more directly to the museum's themes. Magnets link to the mining exhibit, toy soldiers to the Civil War and retro candy ties to the 1960's displays,"* says Harvey.

An online store [www.michiganology.com](http://www.michiganology.com) is a companion to the museum store. The site sells print merchandise from the exhibits. ***The 500-piece puzzles, buttons, and prints are all 100% made at the Michigan History Center.*** ☆

### ADMISSION

Adults (18 - 64) - \$6  
Seniors (65+) - \$4  
Youth (6-17) - \$2  
Children up to 5 years - Free  
*Sunday admission & parking are free.*

### HOURS

Monday-Friday: 9 am-4:30 pm  
Saturday: 10 am-4 pm  
Sunday: 1-5 pm

### MICHIGAN HISTORY MUSEUM

702 West Kalamazoo Street  
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517.373.3559  
[www.michigan.gov/museum](http://www.michigan.gov/museum)





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# Ingham County Parks

☆ by Amy Piper

*If you love living summer outdoors, the Lansing area's Ingham County parks may be your version of heaven. The parks span more than 1,200 acres dedicated to sports and recreation. Enjoy the quiet simplicity of a sailboat on Lake Lansing or spend an afternoon playing volleyball, hiking or canoeing the Grand River. Sports fanatics crush home runs at the two ball diamonds, toss a ringer at horseshoes, or play volleyball. Each park offers something unique.*

## BURCHFIELD PARK

Burchfield Park is Ingham County's largest park with over 540 acres of woods, trails, and beach. It sports some of the best fishing in Ingham County. A stocked fishing pond offers a chance to hook eight to thirteen-inch trout or tell tall tales about that "big one" that got away. Accessible fishing docks and boardwalks allow you to take the kids fishing without getting muddy.

Canoes and kayaks can be reserved ahead of time and

rentals are weather dependent. The Grand River has three routes; McNamara, the shortest, is about 45 minutes. Fifteen-passenger vans are available to take you upstream, so you paddle your way back to Burchfield Park. For larger parties, multiple vans are available.

The swimming beach is open Memorial Day through Labor Day only on weekends and holidays, 12 p.m. to 8 p.m. weather permitting. The beach is closed Monday through Friday. Other water activities include renting pedal boats.

For land lovers, there are hiking trails, six miles of single-track mountain bike trails, and disc golf. Disc golf is similar to traditional golf; but instead of a ball and clubs, players use a flying disc or Frisbee. Play starts at a designated tee area, and you throw to a goal basket. A daily disc golf pass is \$4.00.

According to Tim Morgan, Director of Ingham County Parks, Burchfield Park will

have some accessibility updates from two park improvement grants. As early as fall 2017, crews will renovate Overlook shelter area (overlooking the pond). The grant will replace the shelter; switch the porta-john with permanent bathroom facilities and widen access to the bathroom and drinking fountain. Paved hard surfaces will replace the gravel in the parking lot. The improved pavilion will be available to rent. The second grant, available in 2018, funds the McNamara Landing universal accessibility project.

Burchfield Park's volunteer opportunities allow you to give back locally while getting outdoors and helping the park get back to its native roots. Seasonal naturalist, Emma Jakobcic needs volunteers to assist with getting rid of invasive plants, planting native trees, restoring the prairies, and cleaning up the Grand River. Contact Emma Jakobcic at [ejakobcic@ingham.org](mailto:ejakobcic@ingham.org) to volunteer.





# Ingham County Parks

## NATURE DAY CAMP AT BURCHFIELD PARK

There are five themes of Nature Day Camp at Burchfield Park. The first, Winged Things explores the world of birds, bats, and bugs where kids learn to identify local winged friends and their unique characteristics. Water World dives into the world of water whether it's the Grand River, Peppermint Creek or a rain puddle, and explores the life it brings to all kinds of creatures, including humans. Jump, Slither & Slide explores the unique life cycles of the cold-blooded world of reptiles. Discover what makes them so important to our ecosystems. Warm-Blooded Wonders explores what makes mammals so special and how mammals are similar to birds. Explore a world of fur, feathers, and special adaptations. Finally, Ecosystem Explorers observes all forms of life, from the bald

eagle fishing out of the Grand River to the tiny creatures that live in the dirt and how they are interconnected.

Nature Day Camp activities include morning hikes, swimming, and fishing, lunch, and snack time, making forts and campfires and doing crafts and projects. Camp sessions run 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. or 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Enrollment in Nature Day Camp is open to children ages five (must have completed kindergarten) to twelve. Campers are limited to five weeks of camp and should not attend the same camp theme more than once. To register, choose your session(s) and call the Ingham County Parks office at 517-676-2233.

### Burchfield Park

881 Grovenburg Road  
Holt, MI 48842  
517.676.2233  
[www.pk.ingham.org/Parks/BurchfieldPark.aspx](http://www.pk.ingham.org/Parks/BurchfieldPark.aspx)

## HAWK ISLAND

Hawk Island is a 100-acre park and the newest to the Ingham County park system. There's lots of water fun at Hawk Island. Enjoy the swimming beach open seven days a week. Run through the water sprays or wait for a bucket of water to dump at the Splash Pad. Rent pedal boats or rowboats. Fish from the accessible fishing docks and boardwalks to stay dry.

Crews recently resurfaced Hawk Island's ten-foot wide, one and a half mile long trail that connects with Holt Trails and Valhalla Park, Lansing Trail and to Michigan State University (MSU) trails. This was done with Trails and Parks Millage Funds and a MDNR State Passport grant funding.

Bring the family dog along to play in Soldan Dog Park (part of Hawk Island). Purchase a key

VISIT LAKE LANSING PARK SOUTH FOR FRIDAY NIGHT CONCERTS AT THE BAND SHELL CONCERT STAGE IN JUNE, JULY, AND AUGUST.





fob for entry from either the gatehouse, maintenance barn, the city of Lansing, county parks or the animal shelter. Dogs must have a dog license to enter the Dog Park.

### **Hawk Island Park**

1601 E. Cavanaugh Road  
Lansing MI, 48910  
517.676.2233

<http://pk.ingham.org/Parks/HawkIsland.aspx>

### **LAKE LANSING PARK SOUTH**

Lake Lansing Park South is a 30-acre venue with the largest lake within 30 miles of Lansing. A sandy beach with four acres of green grass surrounds the beach. Memorial Day through Labor Day, use the beach with restrooms to change into swimming suits. Enjoy the convenience of concession stands.

The Friends of Ingham County Parks host free Friday Night Concerts at the Lake Lansing Park South Band Shell concert stage in June, July, and August. All Friday evening performances begin at 7:00 p.m. Parking and admission are free. The park opens to free admission beginning at 6:00. For the kids, entry to play on a Moonwalk and Giant Slide is free. Bring your lawn chair, blanket, and food to have a picnic.

### **Lake Lansing Park South**

1621 Pike Street  
Haslett, MI 48840  
517.676.2233  
[www.pk.ingham.org/Parks/LakeLansingParkSouth.aspx](http://www.pk.ingham.org/Parks/LakeLansingParkSouth.aspx)

RUN THROUGH THE WATER SPRAYS OR WAIT FOR A BUCKET OF WATER TO DUMP AT THE SPLASH PAD AT HAWK ISLAND.



### **LAKE LANSING PARK NORTH**

Lake Lansing Park North is a wooded 530-acre natural recreation area. Mature oak and maple woodlands, marshlands, pine plantations, and transitional field areas exist in the area.

Lake Lansing Park North offers two playgrounds, a basketball court, hiking trails, horseshoe pits, picnic shelters, sand volleyball courts, and softball diamonds. There's also a nearby boat launch (The boat-launching fee is \$50 annually.)

The park also provides more than five miles of trails where interpretive signs mark a 2.4-mile loop of the trail. The trails and boardwalks provide access to evergreen forests, swamps, marshes, a deciduous forest, and fields.

### **Lake Lansing Park North**

6260 East Lake Drive  
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517.676.2233  
<http://pk.ingham.org/Parks/LakeLansingParkNorth.aspx>

### **ALL PARKS' SUMMER HOURS**

Parks open one half hour before sunrise for pedestrians and 8:00 a.m. for vehicle access. Parks close one-half hour after sunset unless otherwise posted. ☆







# SOUTHERN BBQ AND CARNIVORE CUISINE

☆ by Amy Piper

**THE BARBECUE AROMA HITS HARD.** DRY-RUBBED, SLOW-SMOKED UP TO 18 HOURS WITH A COMBINATION OF OAK AND MESQUITE, MEAT RESTAURANT LOCATED IN LANSING MICHIGAN IS INDEED ALL ABOUT THE MEAT -- BEEF BRISKET (LEAN OR FATTY), PORK RIBS, TURKEY, WINGS, PULLED PORK, AND TEXAS HOT LINKS. YOU CAN ORDER EACH MEAT AS PLATTERS OR MEATWICHES.

Noticing the Cherry Bomb Sauce on the Trailer Park Bruschetta, I requested some for the meat. *"We used to put it on the table; but, people drank it,"* the server explained. *"Now it's served on request. We make everything from scratch except the ketchup,"* he boasted.

Five sauces offered tableside -- coffee-based Black Magic, vinegar-based Vin 666, Buffalo-garlic-infused Hot Garlic, Dijon-spiked Carolina Mustard, and traditional tomato-centered Jazzy Q sauce, sweet and tangy with mild spice.

While you won't find lettuce or desserts on the menu, there are traditional sides with a twist -- creamy jalapeño cilantro coleslaw, balanced bacon and blue cheese potato salad, and made-to-order mac 'n cheese. Plan for tomorrow's lunch, the entrée weighs a pound.

Meat's corrugated metal ceiling lends a rough-industrial vibe to the wood panels over painted brown cement block walls and painted and polished cement floors. The recently expanded restaurant has 15 tables and 13 seats at the bar sporting a heavy metal Rock and Roll décor.

**Meat's open Tuesday through Saturday 11:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m. and Sunday Noon - 7:00 p.m. Monday, Meat's closed.** *Occasionally they run out of meat and close early.* ☆

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IF YOU HAVE BEEN FOLLOWING THE NEWS, 2017 IS PROJECTED TO BE A HOT YEAR FOR HOME SALES! **FOR THOSE OF YOU THAT ARE SELLING YOUR HOME, THIS IS GREAT NEWS.**



**To those of you who are thinking about purchasing,** now is the time to start the home buying journey as interest rates are still low.

**A good rule of thumb is to create a checklist (or look online for one) that will help you identify things that you want in the home.**

For example, are there cracks in the wall or is the ceiling stained? These could be warning signs of bigger problems with the home and having a checklist keeps you on track.

**Now, where to start?** It's a good idea to check your credit score as some lenders require a minimum score. [AnnualCreditReport.com](http://AnnualCreditReport.com) or [CreditKarma.com](http://CreditKarma.com) are two websites that offer you that information. If your credit score won't allow you to get a home loan now, you can identify entries on the credit report that will assist you to improve your score. Make sure all of your bills are paid on time; late payments drive down your score. Pay down your credit balances; maxed-out credit accounts can also hurt your score. Do not open new lines of credit or close old lines of credit as that activity can negatively affect your score.

**Once you have established that your score meets the requirements, schedule an appointment with a lender to get pre-approved.** The pre-approval process provides you with a price range to begin house hunting. The lender will request you to bring information such as paystubs and W-2's and other personal information. After you have determined how much you can afford, think about the area that you want to live. Is it important to you to live in a certain school district or certain area of town? Take a drive through neighborhoods and do some research online to get a feel of what is available in your price range. Once you have identified homes that appeal to you, schedule an appointment to walk through. Be sure to take that checklist you created with you.

**Finally, you've found a house of your dreams-time to make an offer!** Do some research or have your realtor (if you used one) to provide information to you on sales of comparable homes in the area. Another consideration is to assess how long the home was on the market. These two factors will assist in determining a price you want to offer to the seller for the home. Are there contingencies

that you want to include in the price? Will you ask the seller to pay for closing costs or to cover the cost of a repair?

**Once the seller has accepted your offer, you will want to schedule an inspection.** This is the most critical part of the home buying process which could provide you information on why you should or should not purchase the home. If the all clear is given on an inspection, you are ready to submit a mortgage application. Review all of the costs associated; closing costs, title insurance, property taxes etc. prior to signing the contract to ensure you can fit it into your monthly budget.

Your lender will schedule a closing date, it is a good idea to visit the home again prior to the closing to ensure that things have not changed since you wrote the offer.

When the closing process has been completed, you will be handed the keys to your new home!

To receive more information about a mortgage or to start the pre-approval process with CASE Credit Union, contact **Dan Lynch at 517.393.7710 ext. 1064.** We look forward to assisting you in your mortgage journey. ☆





# SCIENCE CENTER

☆ by Amy Piper

While pre-teens perfected their pitching arm, Dad helped the seven-year-old build and test paper airplanes. Mom and the three-year-old practiced throwing in the Play Space. At Impression 5's all-new hands-on Throwing Things exhibit, an entire family explored kinetic and potential energy. *"Impression 5 strives to engage the whole family together, so there's no need for families to split up during their visit to the Science Center,"* says Laura Zeller, Impression 5's Director of Communications. Impression 5's exhibits are designed to engage families with children birth to twelve with dynamic components

that are accessible to various heights, abilities, and language comprehension. Impression 5 believes in the power and lasting impact of families learning together. *"We see the family as the most powerful learning unit there is because it's a relationship built on love and trust, which allows for incredible problem solving and a safe space for kids to take the risks necessary to learn,"* says Zeller.

While Impression 5 Science Center opened in 1972, **there are always new and exciting exhibits to experience.** The most recent addition is Think Tank, a new youth maker space,

and in June, the Science Center will open a two-story water exhibit called Flow. Unlike some other science centers, **Impression 5 designs and builds its own exhibits--** each thoughtfully tailored to accommodate families and encourage them to play, create, and challenge their understanding of science together.

Impression 5 Science Center is also participating in Lansing's city wide "Be a Tourist in Your Own Town" event on Saturday, June 3, 2017.

## IMPRESSION 5 HOURS

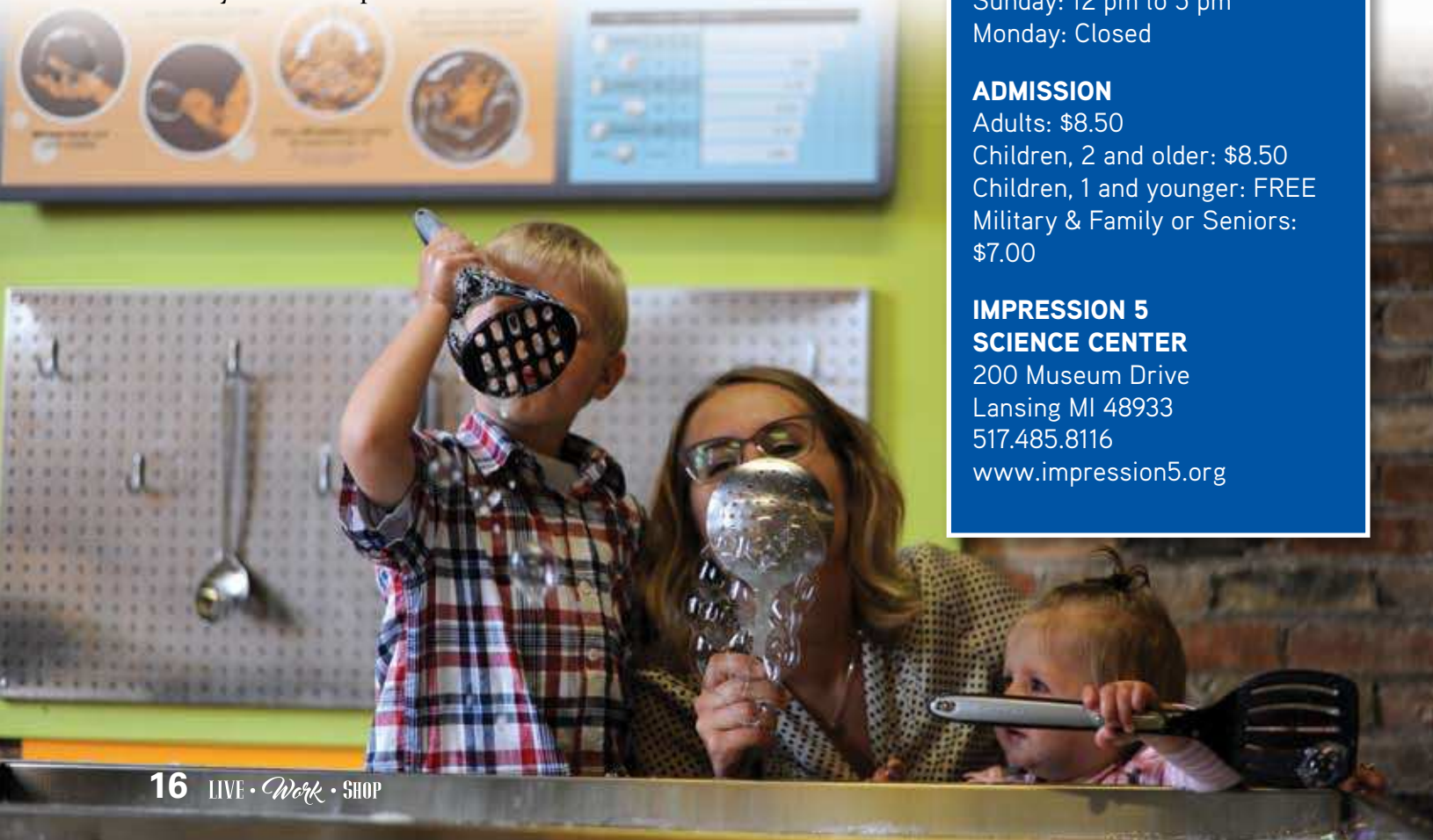
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## IMPRESSION 5 SCIENCE CENTER

200 Museum Drive  
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517.485.8116  
[www.impression5.org](http://www.impression5.org)





## THINK TANK

The quote on the wall in Impression 5's maker space explains, **"Think Tank is a space for making cool things that values and integrates youths' experiences and ideas while building confidence in STEM."** (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math)

At Impression 5, Think Tank was one and a half years in the making with a Youth Action Council consisting of kids nine to fourteen providing ideas and giving approval to the final space. Think Tank is all about introducing youth to the idea of a maker identity. A maker space or hacker space can be any place where individuals gather and create. "When hearing about these types of spaces, you often think of 3-D printers, advanced technologies, and

lots of specialized equipment," says Zeller. "But high-tech tools can be intimidating, inaccessible due to cost, and also can require a lot of time or training. Think Tank empowers kids to devise their own solutions to challenges with simple materials and everyday tools." Each activity presents youth with opportunities to take on the role of a maker to create something completely unique--like making your own stop motion animation video or building a wooden nameplate.

**The Think Tank is empowering, accessible, innovative and, most importantly, fun.** It uses things that you can easily find at home or borrow, demonstrating to pre-teens and teens that you don't need anything fancy or expensive to be innovative. After

experiencing Think Tank, young people view themselves as makers and solve problems organically. They apply what they learn in the Think Tank to projects or challenges at home. For example, by learning about circuitry in Think Tank, they may feel empowered to tinker with soft circuits at home making crafts or gadgetry.

**Think Tank incorporates six tool stations** that include power tools, a workbench, a cutting station with blades and handsaws, a hot glue station, an adhesive station with magnetic tapes and superglue, and a soldering station.



## FLOW: A NEW WATER EXHIBIT

A two-story water room called Flow is slated to open June 30. Flow will explore water movement through various interactive components that allow you to interact with H2O in really cool ways. This exhibit is a project sponsored by the Rotary Club of Lansing highlighting one of Rotary's missions of helping in-need communities access clean drinking water. Other exhibit sponsors include: Consumers Energy Foundation, PNC Bank, Joe D. Pentecost Foundation, and Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs. Inside Flow, families are able to use the components to

manipulate water up and down the two-story water room. The exhibit will include an Archimedes Screw, a machine historically used for transferring water to irrigation ditches from a lower body of water. A screw-shaped surface inside a pipe pumps water by turning it. There'll be a water vortex you can manipulate and a giant flywheel you can wind to shoot water 40 feet in the air! **Families will also enjoy exploring a water wall where you'll be able to change water flow by building structures and channels with brick-like pegs.**

## LEARNING ABOUT BASIC SCIENCE

Summer L.A.B.S. day camps offer curious children opportunities to play, create, and challenge their understanding of scientific concepts through hands-on, interactive projects and experiments. All age-specific camps encourage children to have fun and make long-term, meaningful connections to science. Weeklong camps are geared to specific age

groups: three to five, five to seven, seven to nine, and ten to twelve. Single-day camps for ages five to ten offer a variety of themes. Registration for Summer L.A.B.S. Camps is open now and the camps run throughout the whole summer. For more information on Summer L.A.B.S. Camps visit [www.impression5.org/Visit/EducationalProgramsCamps.aspx](http://www.impression5.org/Visit/EducationalProgramsCamps.aspx). ☆





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