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NOVEMBER 2016

Community Fundraising

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Happy Popcorn

COMMUNITY
FUNDRAISING FROM
CRAVINGS GOURMET
POPCORN

☆ by Kelly Rogers

Chad Jordan, Founder and Owner of Cravings Gourmet Popcorn, loves his community as much as he loves some Dark Molasses Carmel Sea Salt Popcorn. Chad began spiritedly popping corn in 2007, selling it locally at a farmer's market. Two stores, and one manufacturing hub later, Chad has deployed both his community spirit and premium popcorn making skills to create a successful community fundraising program.

COMMUNITY POPCORN PROJECT

The Cravings Fundraising Program was started in 2014 after requests for bags of popcorn to resell were steadily increasing from Greater Lansing community members and organizations. Chad felt it was important to create structure around these requests and a more formal program for tracking and properly supplying the fundraising endeavors with delicious handmade batches of popcorn. A handmade food product is a key differentiator for this program compared to

other programs. A trade-off in quality would be unacceptable in Chad's eyes, especially for an opportunity to better communities while increasing brand awareness.

Chad also wanted the program to be simple to implement with no gimmicks or prizes. For every bag of popcorn sold, initially, 30% of the money for each bag went to the organization. If a certain threshold was met, it became 40%. This was more money to the community than most programs of its type.



This past July, Chad felt Cravings could make it even simpler and better, and the split is now 50/50. And, the popcorn still tastes as good as early farm market days. Did we mention the bags are massive? Chad laughs as he pictures kids carrying around the bags which can be almost as big as they are.

GOAL FOR GAINS

The program goals and structure are clear and consistent, allowing for as much as possible to go back to the community and can be summarized as follows:

CLEAR PROGRAM GOALS

- 1) Help groups raise funds for positive community activities.
- 2) Make the program simple.
- 3) Invest time and effort to create tools that improve groups' ability to succeed.

SIMPLE STRUCTURE

All popcorn has the same price of \$10.

\$5 is earned for every bag sold, that's 50% PROFIT!

Sell two varieties: Original Caramel, Cheddar Caramel Mix (Chicago Style)

Cravings helps promote these fundraisers through their powerful social media channels at no cost.

Simple order forms and samples are also provided at no cost.

POPCORN FOR EVERYONE

On another positive note, the popcorn is gluten and peanut free! Schools, parents, and diet and allergy sensitive people can buy what they sell in this program.

The program had its largest month of revenue in September of this year, and has also turned into extra butter for the business. Cravings, with the extra revenue from the program, has been able to diversify product lines, maximize employee time, and consider expansion in the near future both in staffing and markets.

SUPPORT THE GOOD

The program has made an impact in other areas outside of Lansing, including Greater Detroit and Traverse City. The increased brand recognition in new markets will continue to bolster the success and growth of the central hub in Lansing, with a target of increased

efficiency. For a small business on a fast growth trajectory, the opportunity to look at items to increase efficiency such as pre-printed labels or machines to fill bags is significant, and it has been the result of doing what is right for the community.

Chad sees the community in which he spent most of life and started his business nine years ago as a community with an excellent and unique future. With its blue collar backbone, combined with a thriving arts community, and a growing foodie culture, Greater Lansing is taking a path true to its roots forward.

Lansing as a “big small town” is undergoing significant change in the right direction according to Chad. It is up to us to make it happen by believing in it and working for it. He says, “For it to be good, we have to support the good right into existence.” Chad is doing his part through continuing to grow his business here and through the fundraising program. The “Pure Popcorn Addiction” of Cravings is good for our community, good for business growth, and awesome for popcorn addicts. ☆

CHAD JORDAN,
FOUNDER AND
OWNER OF CRAVINGS
GOURMET POPCORN



Cravings Gourmet Popcorn is Mid-Michigan's source for premium gourmet popcorn. Gluten free and nut free, popped in coconut oil instead of cheap vegetable oil. Started in 2007 at a farmers market, we strive to create addicting gourmet popcorn flavors. We specialize in caramel popcorn flavors, as well as, cheesy and savory varieties. We are not your typical popcorn shop. You rarely will find a rainbow of candy popcorn flavors. Cravings popcorn has two stores in the Lansing area:

Downtown Lansing

109 S. Washington Square

Old Town Lansing

1220 Turner Street

Downtown Hours

Monday- Friday: 10 am - 6 pm

Saturday: 10 am - 4 pm

We are closed Sunday

Special Hours For Old Town and Downtown

Christmas Eve 10am - 3pm

New Years Eve 10am - 3pm

Closed: Mother's Day | Easter

Memorial Day | Father's Day

Labor Day | Thanksgiving Day

Christmas Day | New Years Day

Shop Online 24/7/365

Call Us

Toll free: (888) 210-0720

Downtown Store: (517) 803-2782

Online

www.cravingspopcorn.com.

For more information on the fundraising program:

www.cravingspopcorn.com/pages/popcorn-fundraiser



☆ by Gretchen Smith

“Homelessness is rarely a choice,” says Mark Criss, Executive Director of Lansing’s City Rescue Mission.

Unforeseen circumstances account for 80-85% of the homeless in the greater Lansing area.

The other 15% of homeless individuals may mistrust those trying to help them. There are many reasons for refusing help, and we do not judge these individuals.

“We welcome everyone, and we tell them our mission of providing evidence of Christ’s love for all comes first, before food and shelter. We require chapel attendance for those that come to us for food and shelter, and do not charge for those services.”

Founded in 1911, The City Rescue Mission is a 501 (c) (3) organization that is the oldest local homeless shelter. The City Rescue Mission has made many long-term community connections to assist with its services. The greater Lansing community and a few grants fund all shelter services.

Lansing’s City Rescue Mission

WHERE FOOD, SHELTER AND FAITH OFFER HOPE

2015: 104,118 MEALS AND 55,299 SHELTER NIGHTS

The City Rescue Mission, in both locations last year served 104,118 meals, with food donated from citizens, community and corporate allies. Shelter nights at both locations were 55,299 nights. The men’s shelter can house 100 individuals; the women’s shelter, 100, including children.

For those that need a variety of services to become independent and self-sustaining, the City Rescue Mission offers extended-stay programs. Those guests are assigned a case manager to help them with their path to self-sufficiency. Extended-stay guests are asked to volunteer at the shelter – a means to boost self-confidence.

“About 80% of guests who are homeless are able to transition to independence ‘on their own’ with food and shelter needs met, while they look for work and housing,” says Criss.

Both shelters have computer stations for completing on-line job applications, and the women’s shelter works with Advent House to offer GED classes to guests. The federal government provides trac phones, so interview requests come directly to guests.

VOLUNTEERS MAKE THE DIFFERENCE

Trained volunteers donate time and talents for Mission operations – from serving food to guests, collecting non-perishable and personal needs items, and assisting with child care at the women’s shelter.

.....
The Mission itself has only 70 employees—30 full-time and 40 part-time. Only 5% of their budget goes to administration.
.....

Volunteers also help at the thrift store at 3700 W. Saginaw. Mission needs are listed at www.BEaRESCUER.com

GUEST TRANSFORMATIONS

“Ann” was highly-educated and had worked in education when poor health and other circumstances led to her homelessness. Estranged from her family, she had nowhere to go...except the Mission. At first, she was sad and bitter, but the love of staff and the message of Hope began to affect her heart. She saw herself, her situation, and her circumstances in a different light.



MISSION NEEDS LIST

Your donations provide food, shelter, and hope to hundreds of men, women, and children in Michigan's capital area!

Fresh Food Items: Produce (Fruit and Veg) Salad Mix
Shredded Cheese Ground Beef

Non-Perishable Food Items: Canned Vegetables (#10 Can) Canned Fruit (#10 Can) Creamer and Sugar

Sauces and Condiments Mayo

BBQ

Hot Sauce Salad Dressing (gallons) Cereal

Please note: we cannot utilize dented cans, expired or opened items. If donating "Fresh Items" please bring directly to the Mission and do not allow "cold" items to get to room temperature.

Colored Sheets, size Twin X Long

Colored Towels

New Pillows

Liquid Laundry Detergent

Paper Towel

Toilet Paper

Plastic Cutlery

Styrofoam Bowls, 12 oz Styrofoam Plates, 9" and 6"

Shaving Cream

Twin Blade Razors

Deodorant and Lotion

Shampoo and Conditioner (full size bottles)

Combs and Brushes

Diapers, Baby Wipes

Socks

Underwear

Men's Undershirts Slippers Flip-Flops

Her homelessness became merely a step in a journey that led her toward reconciliation with her Redeemer. She found work and eventually re-established relationships with her family. Today, she is a proud and happy grandmother, who is involved in a local church, has a community of friends, and helps care for her grandchildren. She continues to serve at the Mission and encourages other women that there is Hope even through homelessness. ☆





THE GREATER LANSING FOOD BANK

FEEDING FAMILIES IN 7 COUNTIES FOR 35 YEARS

☆ by Gretchen Smith

Grace W. is typical of many individuals served by the Greater Lansing Food Bank. She works two part-time jobs, and has two sons, 10 and 12. They help out with odd jobs, but the family just does not have enough income to always know where their next meal will come from.

A co-worker told Grace about a food pantry that provides emergency food supplies to families in need. Thinking of her sons, Grace called United Way's 2-1-1 hotline to find the nearest Greater Lansing Food Bank affiliated food pantry. They supplied non-perishable food items for six days – just enough to get her through to her next payday.

A FOOD NETWORK OF PANTRIES AND COMMUNITY KITCHENS

Seven counties are served by the Greater Lansing Food Bank – Ingham, Eaton, Clinton, Clare, Isabella, Gratiot and Shiawassee counties. Last year, this network provided 6,177,000 meals to individuals at risk for not having enough to

eat. Food that Greater Lansing Food Bank delivers includes non-perishable canned goods, fresh produce, boxed meals, frozen proteins and more. Food is also rescued from dining establishments, much of which is safe to eat, but would have otherwise been discarded.



Food drives at schools, churches, service groups and companies bring in a tremendous amount of non-perishable food. For larger organizations, the Food Bank can provide collection barrels and arrange for pick-up as needed.

“Volunteers are essential to our operations,” says Joe Wald, Executive Director of the Greater Lansing Food Bank. “These include ‘gleaners’ who go to orchards and produce

centers and collect fresh produce. We have community members come to our warehouse facility and sort both perishable and non-perishable food items, fill food orders for pantries, and work in our coolers sorting perishable items so they can be easily delivered.”

“Our fleet of Food Mover truck drivers collect food from restaurants, commercial kitchens and events that has not been used and would otherwise go to waste. Volunteers deliver food orders to our food pantries. We’re blessed that many service organizations and corporations encourage employees to spend a few volunteer hours helping us feed those in need.”

“Our operation would simply not be possible without the devoted volunteers that see to the collection, sorting and distribution of food.”

THE GARDEN PROJECT ADDS LOCAL FLAVOR TO FOOD BANK DISTRIBUTION

The Garden Project, which started in 1983, is now part

of The Greater Lansing Food Bank's mission to feed people. The Garden Project provides the community the opportunity to start their own gardens by providing access to over 125 community garden lots. Greater Lansing Food Bank staff members till soil, provide seeds, and ensure access to water. Many of these gardens are located in low-income neighborhoods and are supported with education. Many first time gardeners learn how often to water plants and how to tell when produce is ripe and ready for picking.

"It's an awesome feeling," adds Wald, "to watch a young person pick a tomato they've grown and eat it right from the vine."

HILL CENTER FOOD PRODUCTION

Financial gifts were made from The Capital Region Community Foundation, The Power of We, and 100 Women Who Care which allowed the South Lansing Community Development District Association, the Lansing School District and Sodexo-Magic to repair and expand garden production at Hill Vocational Center.

Needed repairs to the 30' by 60' greenhouse enabled the Garden Project to grow more plant starts for Garden Project gardeners. A hoop house was re-fitted to grow food for a nearby community kitchen. An acre-size garden in a secure, fenced area was created for those living in nearby subsidized apartments.

Adds Wald: "When residents are invested in growing their own food, it's like providing a 'hand-up', rather than a 'hand-out.'"

ANNUAL FOOD FUNDRAISERS

An anticipated October fundraiser is Empty Bowls, made possible with ceramic soup bowls donated from the Greater Lansing Potters Guild, Clayworks and other local kiln artisans. Troppo and AT&T hosted the 2016 event, held between 11 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. A donation of \$20 allows supporters to pick a bowl, and enjoy soup, bread and water. "Many who attend are regulars," says Wald, "who love to add to their collection of soup bowls."

The 10th annual Empty Plate event in May at the Kellogg Center raised nearly \$500,000,

and all attending left with the commemorative plate decorated by Lansing schoolchildren.

Providing a boost to Food Bank's food supplies each May is the National Association of Letter Carriers food drive, which brought in more than 141,000 pounds of food that was distributed almost as soon as it was collected.

"Our ability" adds Wald, "to provide a steady supply of food to our pantries year-round are because of support from our community partners, continuing food drives and special events that remind our supporters that no one should worry about when they will have their next meal or where it is coming from." ☆

Getting involved with The Greater Lansing Food Bank is as easy as calling **(517) 853-7800** or by e-mail glfb@greaterlansingfoodbank.org





TOO BUSY AND STRESSED TO DECORATE?

THE PLANT PROFESSIONALS

Work Magic

FOR YOUR WINTER HOLIDAYS

☆ by Gretchen Smith

Whether it's business or residential, or for Christmas, Hanukkah or Kwanzaa, The Plant Professionals are starting their 32nd season in specialty holiday decorating. The staff magically transforms into holiday elves and works together to provide an experience to fit a client's vision and budget.

For The Plant Professionals, the holiday decorating season began in January with visits to design showrooms and researching new products for the holiday season. In summer and fall, contacts are made with current clients to see what updates or changes they desire for decorations stored at The Plant Professionals. An updated proposal is sent to the client to review and approve. Once a proposal is approved, installation and take-down dates are scheduled.

DESIGN IS THE FOCUS

Tabletop to 25-foot decorated trees, along with wreaths, garlands, swags, sleighs and reindeer, polar bears, carolers and elves are available for purchase or seasonal rental.

The Plant Professionals offers more than 40 styles of artificial trees. Michigan-grown red, white or pink marbled poinsettias, and over 60 different styles and colors of ribbons are offered. Bows, swags and decorated wreaths are crafted and assembled in-house. Client selections can range from the traditional to contemporary. Each project is customized as to color, design and proportion.

"We try to accommodate the needs of each client," says Kathy Valentine, President of The Plant Professionals. "Whether the client wants a few decorated wreaths, garlands and poinsettias, or envisions a huge animated or LED-lit holiday display, we work

very hard to deliver quality products and installation at a reasonable price. We have eight staff members safety-certified in operating boom and scissor lifts. Four designers take new work from concept to completion.

"We pre-decorate as much as possible at our facility, and schedule installations to cause the least disruption to a client's day-to-day business. Trees to 8' can be transported whole to the job site. We use Michigan suppliers whenever possible for holiday plants and greens, and harvest greens locally for our exterior planter work. We can provide fresh or artificial wreaths, garlands and arrangements.



"On Nov. 1, staff began checking lights on current clients' trees, wreaths and garlands, and replacing any non-functioning lights. We recommend LED lights because they last longer, cost less to operate and do not generate heat.

"Clients can rent or purchase their décor," adds Valentine. "We offer holiday storage at our facility once the holiday season is over. All décor is handled with care, wrapped, boxed and labeled. Most businesses do not have adequate storage space for holiday décor, and our 'North Pole' is dedicated for that purpose. We've built and enhanced many long-standing client relationships because we offer safe and accessible storage."

"New commercial and residential clients are invited to call as early as possible for the best selection of holiday décor availability. As with our existing clients, we meet and talk with each client about their specific needs, and develop a proposal based on their budget and

preferences. Once a proposal is accepted, we order needed materials, begin creating the decorations, and schedule an installation time."

EXTERIORS

We offer exterior wreaths, trees, lighting and décor, but we don't seek stand-alone perimeter or tree lighting. We have a strong relationship with a local company who we are glad to refer.

HOLIDAY PARTIES

Many of The Plant Professionals' clients hold holiday parties on-site, off-site or in their homes. The Plant Professionals decorates for themed holiday events, creating and installing specialty trees, centerpieces, wreaths, garlands and poinsettias.

MAKE-AND-TAKES

The Plant Professionals offers "make-and-take" events of wreaths and centerpieces from November through mid-December. "These events," says Valentine, "are scheduled by service, social and garden

clubs for up to 40 individuals. We provide the work space, materials and step-by-step instruction. Everyone goes home with an individually-created, beautiful décor item they can display with pride or give as a gift."

DOES THE GLITTER EVER WEAR OFF?

"Our staff," adds Valentine, "are dedicated to offering beauty and sparkle to our clients, and relieving them of the work and stress. We really enjoy decorating and love putting smiles on people's faces. Though we are open 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. Monday-Friday, we typically meet on location with clients to discuss their holiday needs. We offer what you can't find online or in most retail stores." ☆

Call The Plant Professionals at **(517) 327-1059** or visit their website **www.theplantprofessionals.com** and use the "Contact Us" form.



People helping people is a philosophy shared by credit unions around the world. CASE Credit Union lives and breathes this principle by taking an active part in the communities in which we serve.

BENEFIT TO OTHERS

At CASE, we are encouraged to offer our time, talent or treasure to help others. Our team members are actively involved in many charities and events. From sponsorships to volunteering, you will see how we take pride in being a part of something much larger than ourselves.

LOCAL CHARITY SUPPORT

Each quarter Community Activity Teams nominate local charities to support. Drives are held to raise money for the selected charity, all supported by credit union staff. The team comes up with very creative ways to raise money, whether a raffle, Christmas giving tree donations, car wash, or holiday treats for sale. When the quarter ends, the designated charity is invited to our all staff meeting and is presented with the funds.

PEOPLE HELPING PEOPLE

At CASE we care about enriching our community by providing **free financial education to youth**. Our goal is to help young people become savvy adult spenders and savers and to help area teachers by bringing practical money management tools into the classroom. Our Community Engagement Coordinator, Morgan Cressman, works with educators to find the right fit for students from kindergarten to adults.

FREE Financial Literacy Workshops and seminars are provided to members and non-members to assist them to achieve their financial success. From identity theft to creating a budget, we have you covered.

Financial Counseling is a free service offered at CASE Credit Union. Our certified financial counselors will assist members and non-members in developing a budget. With many families in our area living paycheck to paycheck, our goal is to help you find ways to make your money last longer. We also offer Credit Counseling; by building your credit you will see your rewards in lower loan rates, insurance rates, finding employment or finding a place to live.

In 2007, CASE board of directors and senior management created **CASE Cares**, a 501(c)(3) non-profit all volunteer organization. Our mission was to accommodate children of all abilities to have the opportunity to play in a safe, barrier-free environment. Our first project was to build a Miracle League Ball Field. The CASE Cares Miracle League Ball Field was completed in the spring of 2012 in DeWitt Charter Township providing children with special needs the opportunity to play baseball regardless of their ability. CASE Cares' next project is to build a barrier-free playground for the community. ☆



Stop by and say hi when you see us in the community,
WE WOULD LOVE TO TELL YOU OUR STORY!

Wigs & Hair Extensions All the Rave...

AT 88 MANE STREET



☆ by Gretchen Smith

Pat W. is undergoing cancer treatment, and sure enough, one of the side effects is the loss of her hair. Her auburn tresses bolstered her self-esteem. She confided to a friend, Jan: "I should just wear a sign that says 'CANCER PATIENT!'" Jan knew Cheryl Bosworth had opened a salon—88 Mane Street—specializing in wigs, hair extensions, and custom synthetic hairpieces for women with alopecia areata—an autoimmune disorder that attacks hair follicles as a person ages.

Jan urges Pat: "I know this hairstylist who specializes in synthetic and human hair wigs and hairpieces. Her name is Cheryl, and she has over 35 years' experience. I'll even go with you to the appointment."

CHOICES GALORE

A week later Pat is in Cheryl's chair, having her head and scalp measured. The breadth of wig colors and styles is almost overwhelming. Cheryl explains

to Pat and Jan: "A client can come in and select a wig that fits, decide on the hair color and style, and I cut around the hair lines so few would know the person is wearing a wig. An alternative is a custom synthetic, hand-tied wig that allows a person's natural skin color to show through the wig.

We can match your natural hair color, and give you a new look, or closely duplicate your hairstyle.

"We have human hair wigs which are also hand-tied and offer the most natural appearance. They're also the highest in price. We show clients how to care for their wig or hairpiece, or they can come in about every six weeks to get their wig washed, cleaned and restyled."

A SENSE OF SELF

Pat has spied a wig that resembles her own hairstyle so closely, she can't quite believe her eyes. It's just snug enough against her scalp that it fits almost perfectly. Tears form in Pat's eyes. Handing a tissue to Pat, Cheryl says: "It's normal to feel emotional and understand how much your hair defines a

sense of self. Let's take some measurements and make a few small adjustments to its fit. Decide if you want to keep your own hairstyle or try a different look. Let's make an appointment for next week, and I can fit and style your wig." Pat was still wiping away tears as she and Jan left the shop.

Cheryl's next appointment is with a 31-year-old with significant hair loss on the crown of her head. Like hair extensions, a partial synthetic hairpiece can be matched and cut to fill the area where hair follicles are no longer cooperating. Cheryl adds: "We have different methods to attach hairpieces by beads, surgical adhesives or braiding."

Cheryl's salon vision is this: "It's long been my dream to help women claim their inner beauty with custom wigs and hairpieces that put an exclamation point on their outward elegance."

88 MANE STREET

6358 W. Saginaw, Lansing, MI 48917
Cheryl Bosworth, Owner/Stylist, 517.574.4910

Silver Bells in the City

A LANSING TRADITION FOR 32 YEARS

☆ by Gretchen Smith

A CROWD FAVORITE

Nine-year-old Noah, and his eight-year-old sister, Nora, have begged their parents for a prime spot at their first 2016 Silver Bells in the City celebration. Their father, Matthew, has worked long hours on the Electric Light Capital Area Transportation Authority (CATA) float. It's a crowd favorite. In the Silver Bells Electric Light Parade, routed around the city center. Both youngsters have already brought an unwrapped new toy, purchased from their allowances, for "Toys for Tots" at Toy Mill Court at Ottawa Street and Washington Square. These unused toys are accepted, beginning at noon Friday, Nov. 18. In a few hours, "Silver Bells" will officially start.

It's 6 p.m.: The Grand Marshal's car leads 60 other floats, all casting a prism of light and splendor. Noah points to Nora the CATA bus, every inch lit in green and blue, and the grille lights smiling at all gathered.

Noah and Nora wave to Santa, and it seems as though Santa and Mrs. Claus wink just at them. Booming brass instruments and the steady drum-beat of "The Drummer Boy" fills their ears, as a dozen marching bands proceed

in perfect step. Each band's members and instruments are festively decorated as reminders that the holiday season has arrived.

Their dad tells them the bands are judged, and the best-illuminated small and large marching band receives either a \$500 gift card from Marshall Music, or \$500 from the Board of Water and Light for their band programs.

Time flies by, and officials step forward to switch on the lights of the State Christmas tree. "Must be a hundred feet tall," whispers Nora to Noah. Then, fireworks light the night sky in a riotous blaze of color. "Cool!" says Noah.

SILVER BELLS VILLAGE & COMMUNITY SINGING

Their mother, Marcia, suggests they visit Silver Bells Village, where they can get some hot cider and cookies, and Marcia can see the holiday crafts of some 20 vendors. She purchases a \$20 Silver Bells commemorative ornament by Tiffany Marie, of LaFille Gallery. The Village is in the 100 E. block of Allegan Avenue between South Washington Square and Grand Avenue. A half-hour later, Noah and Nora ask, "Where's Dad?" Their mother replies: "Oh, he's at the

Community Sing. Would you like to go find him?"

"Yes, and we can sing too!", says Nora. "I'll hum," concedes Noah.

There are a number of venues for programs to appeal to all ages. The State Christmas Tree is the gathering point for the Community Sing. Along the way, they meet strolling clowns, who perform magic tricks for Noah and Nora. All of downtown's rooftops shine with 40,000 white lights, thanks to the work of Jim Spitz, electrician with the International Brotherhood of Electric Workers (IBEW 665), a parade sponsor. This is Spitz' 20th year of seeing that all the lights work.

OTHER SILVER BELLS ACTIVITIES

So many choices. The Michigan Library and Historical Museum is open 5-9 p.m., along with Lansing City Market, and the CATA Transportation Center and Lansing Center as hospitality centers. Cider and cookies are available, along with restrooms.



COMING TO SILVER BELLS OR GOING HOME – CATA’S GOT A SEAT FOR YOU

Matthew and Marcia and their children parked at the Michigan Historical Museum. For just 50 cents a person (those 42” and under ride free), they boarded a Silver Bells bus. Buses run every 10 minutes from 5-10 p.m. and stop at every entertainment venue. By 9 p.m., Matthew, Marcia and their children are tired and ready to go home. Their little sister, Nancy, is at home with a babysitter, eager to go to Breakfast with Santa on Saturday.

BREAKFAST WITH SANTA, NOV. 19 OR 20, 8 A.M.-NOON

Four-year-old Nancy is up at 6 a.m. on Saturday. Marcia has agreed to take Nancy to a hot pancake breakfast with Santa and Mrs. Claus at Troppo, 111

East Michigan Ave. Marcia pre-bought the \$10 tickets by calling Troppo on Oct. 25 (first day of registration) at (517) 371-4000. Toddlers under two can come with a parent or family member at no cost.



Nancy has a short list for Santa: A pair of fun slippers, a sock monkey plush toy, a horse puzzle, and a wish that Santa and Mrs. Claus will arrive safely back home.

After breakfast and Santa, Nancy and her mother decorate cookies and make a simple holiday craft. Marcia asks if

Nancy wants to write a letter to Santa. “Mom, I told Santa what I’d like. I know he will remember.”

SILVER BELLS 5K RUN/WALK – 9 A.M. SATURDAY, NOV. 19

Matthew and Noah have paid \$25 each to run the 3.12 mile trek that supports Silver Bells in the City and the Chris and Louise Holman Foundation. They have dressed like holiday Trekkies, and hope to finish in the top 75 of hundreds of runners. They have chip timers in their running shoes. Awards go to the runner with the most spirited costume, and the first, second and third place finishers. Each runner gets a long-sleeved T-shirt.

The 5K Run is sponsored by Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Michigan, Blue Care Network and H & H, Inc. Register for the 5K at: <https://runsignup.com/Race/MI/SilverBellsFunRun>



SILVER BELLS SPONSORS

“It takes a city to make this all happen,” says Layna Anderson, Communications and Marketing Manager, Lansing Downtown, Inc.

Major Silver Bells sponsors include: LANSING BOARD OF WATER AND LIGHT, CITY OF LANSING, INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS #665, THE NATIONAL ELECTRICAL CONTRACTORS’ ASSOCIATION, LAKE TRUST CREDIT UNION, GRANGER, THE LANSING STATE JOURNAL AND BLUE CROSS AND BLUE SHIELD OF MICHIGAN.

Media sponsors include Fox 47, Comcast and WKAR, Lansing Public Media Center, Lansing Community College, and WLMI (92.9 FM). WKAR, Fox 47 and Comcast re-broadcasts the night’s activities during the weekend.

For a complete list of sponsors, all the Silver Bells activities, a Silver Bells map, and re-broadcast times go to: www.silverbellsinthecity.org/#celebrate. ☆

TIPS FOR SUCCESS FROM LOCAL BUSINESSES



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The whole house surge protectors come in several versions of protection varying from \$25,000-\$75,000 worth of coverage.

You can also have surge protection installed for your phone and cable lines which adds another \$20,000 worth of coverage.

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Is a \$49.99 Remote Starter really \$49.99?

As we get closer to winter and the temperature start to drop, we wish we had a remote starter to warm our car up. There is nothing like getting into a warm car when you're ready to go somewhere. You will see a lot of advertisements for remote starts for \$49.99. This is what the advertisement doesn't tell you.

- Besides \$49.99 you will need to purchase a integration module
- Purchase extra parts so it fits your vehicle
- There price doesn't include insulation, so you will need to add that to the price
- There may not be a warranty

After all this, your \$49.99 remote starter is now around \$300.00 for a basic remote starter. At Design Rides, our Remote Starter price is the price you pay. **Up front pricing with no hidden charges.**

If you have any questions or interest in a remote starter this winter season feel free to give us a call at **517-925-8745** or visit our website www.designrides.net to view our pricing.



HOLIDAY SHOPPING TIPS

The Holidays can be a stressful time both on your emotions and your finances. Below are some tips to remember while you are out looking for that 'perfect' gift.

Know your budget-use coupons, sales etc. to save money for things on your list.

Be sure to **shop with a list** and from your list.

Remember that when an item is 50% off, it is **still 50% on**.

Impulse purchases can throw your budget off, creating undue stress.

Plan for purchases-Hopefully you have set funds aside throughout the year to cover your holiday purchases. If not, consider making your own gifts; examples include coupons for babysitting, making a nice dinner or lawn clean up in the spring. .

Don't go shopping when you are hungry, angry or sad-**you will tend to overspend when you are feeling emotional**.

Keep it simple-**expensive parties and get-togethers create stress**. By keeping it simple, you too can enjoy your party and guests.



Why are my windows sweating when it's cold outside?

The warm air inside the house holds humidity.

When that warm air comes into contact with the cold window pane it condensates.

Lowering the humidity in your house greatly reduces this problem.

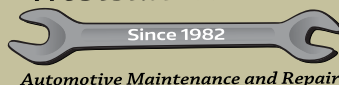
Two of the most helpful things you can do are:

Make sure you use the exhaust fan in the bathroom when taking a shower or a bath.

Make sure it is adequate in size to remove the most air for your bathroom size and that it's properly vented to the outside of your house.

A dehumidifier is always a good idea if you can have one installed on most existing HVAC units or use a stand alone model.

Westside Car Care



Fall is the time of year to prepare your vehicle for the cold months ahead. The most frequently asked question by our customers this time of year is, "**what does my vehicle need to be ready for winter?**" The answer can vary depending on the year, make and model of your vehicle. As a general reference, this is a list of recommendations that we focus on for winter driving preparation:

BATTERY - we highly recommend replacing your battery if its 4 years old or older. Some batteries will last longer, however, cold weather greatly reduces the batteries ability to start the engine. Typically batteries fail with little or no warning. Testing your battery only confirms its current condition and is not reliable to predict its longevity.

TIRES - proper inflation and tire tread depth are key to safe winter driving. Check your air pressure regularly. Replace your tires if the tread depth is less than 4/32". No tread equals no traction. As rain turns to slush and slush to snow, wet weather braking and snow traction decrease as tires wear.

409 Lentz Court, Lansing, MI 48917

517.484.6199

Monday-Friday 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

FLUIDS - replace your vehicle fluids when recommended by the manufacturer. Winter conditions are hard on vehicles. Fluids are the life blood of your vehicle and should be replaced when recommended.

LIGHTS - see and be seen. Vehicles with faded acrylic headlight lenses can experience limited visibility. The acrylic lens can be restored using a restoration kit. Restoring faded lenses can improve your ability to see at night and is a cost saving alternative to lens replacement.

WIPER BLADES - there are many choices that work well in winter and year round. We recommend beam type or contour type blades. Wiper blades are often overlooked until you need them.

Many winter related problems can be prevented if you are proactive and catch a problem before it become a major issue. Having a skilled auto technician evaluate your vehicle can be the difference between having a reliable vehicle or being stranded.

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