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Gretchen Whitmer

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By Chris Azzopardi

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The queer legacy Michigan is fighting to keep

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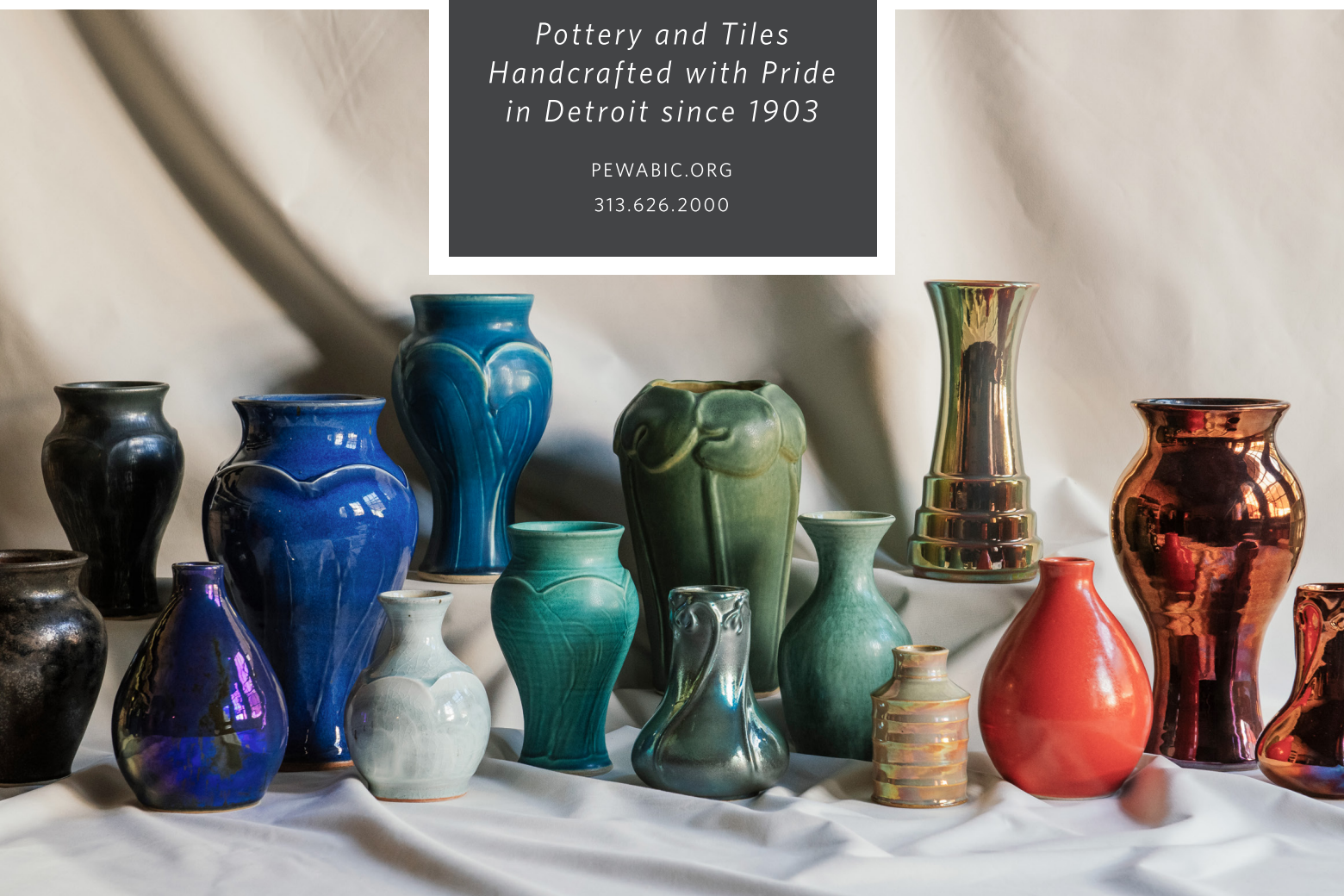


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ON THE COVER: Gov. Whitmer at her home. Photo: Andrew Potter

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A Note From the Publisher

This issue documents what Michigan's LGBTQ+ community has built — and what it will take to keep it. The work that took generations needs tending and renewed focus.

Independent community journalism is part of how that happens. So are the Equality Vendors and business partners who fund this work all year. When you choose them, you're investing in something that invests right back in this community.

Inside, you'll find Gov. Gretchen Whitmer's LGBTQ+ legacy, now written into Michigan law, the story of trans advocate Emme Zanotti and a look back at 20 years with executive editor Chris Azzopardi.

The stories in these pages remind us why this work matters. Thank you for being part of it.

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Gretchen Whitmer Has *Always* Had Our Back



Gov. Gretchen Whitmer at her home in early April 2026. Photo: Andrew Potter

As she prepares to leave office, Michigan's 49th governor reflects on a decade of LGBTQ+ allyship — and the gay daughter who keeps her honest

By Chris Azzopardi

Gov. Gretchen Whitmer isn't just a regular mom — she's a cool mom. She'll tell you herself. Or rather, her outfit will. She strides into the living room of her Lansing residence in all black, a rainbow lightning bolt off one shoulder, rainbow colors climbing each sleeve. The sweater was originally a gift from Whitmer to her gay daughter Sherry, who didn't want it.

"My daughter laughs at me. I'm that mom who buys her the rainbow stuff and she's like, 'Gretchen, please,'" Whitmer says, clearly relishing this. "She doesn't always call me Gretchen, but when she's criticizing me, she does."

"I bought this for her and she was like, 'You're ridiculous.' I'm like, 'I love it. I'm going to wear it.' I am 'That Mom' on TikTok. I always get compliments on it. I told her if she wants to steal it back, she can." It's a TikTok type she wears proudly — the mom who goes harder for her gay kid than the kid wants her to.

She carried that energy into the photo shoot, pausing to grab rainbow accessories for her dogs, Kevin and Doug, before pulling them onto the couch so the three of them could pose together — all of them dressed for Pride. As for the sweater, so many people wish they had it. Right after my sit-down with Whitmer in April, we posted a preview photo and the internet lost its mind. How many governors can say that?

Whitmer's cool demeanor runs deeper than a statement fit. It's rooted in a fierce

protectiveness she has demonstrated throughout her life — most visibly as Michigan's governor since 2019. For anyone who finds politics a bitter pill, Whitmer is the cold beer chaser. She doesn't just show up to your Pride party; she throws her own. Her creative director Julia Pickett, an out lesbian who hung out nearby during our interview, makes sure that energy translates online. Their collaborations have given Whitmer's social media presence its distinctly queer-fluent wit.

During a 2023 phone interview, I suggested to Whitmer that she be transformed into a drag king named "Gretchen Whit*man*." It came up again at her house, and she didn't just roll with it — she seemed to love the idea, ready to make it happen like so many queer-affirming things she's already made happen. She looked to Pickett: "I fully support," Pickett said. Whitmer didn't miss a beat: "We have to go big for my last Pride as governor."

But Whitmer doesn't just wear her allyship on her sleeve. As Michigan governor, she's gotten to do what every ally mom wishes she could: sign legislation that protects not just a community of people she cares about but her own kid too.

In 2023, Whitmer recalls having Sherry by her side as she signed the Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act (ELCRA) amendment, explicitly adding sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression as protected classes. "I didn't know that I was raising a gay woman," says Whitmer, who didn't know Sherry was gay until she came out just before heading off to college.

"I became a member of an LGBTQ+ family in my nuclear family and signing that law so that she would be protected, as would everyone else in the LGBTQ+ family, felt really good," she says. "I'd fought for that for many years and then to be able to sign it into law with my daughter standing there was really a powerful moment."

Before the signing, Whitmer admits she was a little too formal in asking Sherry how she should be addressed during it. "Can I refer to you as a member of the community?" she remembers asking. Sherry texted back: "LOL, Gretchen, you're ridiculous." Whitmer fretted — what did she do wrong? "And she just said, 'You refer to me as a gay woman or a lesbian, please.'" Whitmer responded: "Thank you for the advice, gay woman." Sherry's reply: "You're welcome, non-community member."

> "I'm not here to play games. I want to do meaningful work. I want to make real progress. And when I get that feedback from the community and allies of the community, it tells me we've had that real impact."
>
> — Gov. Gretchen Whitmer

During her tenure as governor, Whitmer says she's learned a lot from her own gay child — but also from staffers who "keep me current" as well as, ahem, community members. She asked questions. She listened. She's been unafraid to make mistakes. You see it even in conversation: When I ask her what new Pride tradition she'd love to see introduced, she turns the question back on me, genuinely curious about the answer. She responded positively to my idea of ensuring Pride festivals include an educational component so younger generations understand Pride didn't begin as a celebration, but a fight for our rights. Over the years, she's also relied heavily on team members who make sure she's recognizing the transgender community in the right way at the right moments. "I'm grateful that I have them and they're willing to spend a little extra time with 54-year-old Gretchen who's got all the right motivations and maybe sometimes the wrong words," she says with a laugh.

Long before the law

For Whitmer, the fight for LGBTQ+ rights has always been personal. She remembers the stories that stuck with her: friends like Chris Kolb, the first openly gay legislator in Michigan, who came into office with her, or Richard Brown, who came out later in life, or Jeynce Poindexter, a trans advocate whose courage and resilience left a lasting impression. "I've learned so much from each of these people, but there are thousands of stories that I've been fortunate to learn from, and their experiences have helped me have more confidence in the work," she says.

It was those kinds of stories that shaped her understanding of the stakes. She recalls the heartbreak of people denied basic rights: partners kept from seeing loved ones in the hospital, parents stripped of custody rights, queer people fired from their jobs based solely on their identity. "Every person deserves to live the life they want with dignity and protection and respect, and that's the bottom line," she says.

But her allyship didn't start with laws



Gov. Gretchen Whitmer with daughter Sherry by her side after signing the Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act amendment. Photo: State of Michigan

or executive orders. It started with small, human moments — moments that Cody Barnhart still remembers, 24 years later.

In the summer of 2002, shortly after graduating high school, Barnhart, then 18, served as a page in the Michigan State House of Representatives, where Whitmer was then a state representative. Pages mostly ran errands and stayed out of the way, he recalls, but Whitmer stood out for a simple reason: she noticed them.

"A lot of representatives saw pages as part of the furniture," he says. "But she made a point to engage with us as individuals. For a teenager in that environment, that kind of acknowledgment leaves an impression."

A few years later, at his first Pride celebration on the steps of the Capitol, that impression deepened. Newly out and unsure of where he fit, he slipped inside the building, overwhelmed by the crowd. Whitmer happened to be there preparing to give a speech.

"She recognized me right away," he recalls. "When I told her I was nervous to go back out, she didn't push me. She just asked if I wanted to stand outside with her so I could feel like I was part of it."

He watched her speak from just off to the side, trying to look like he belonged. For the first time, he says, he actually felt that he did.

"That small gesture meant everything," he says.

Years later, after enlisting in the Army during the era of Don't Ask, Don't Tell, he returned to Lansing with hopes of becoming a helicopter pilot. Whitmer, then serving in the Senate, wrote him a recommendation letter for his Warrant Officer application.

"I still have that letter," he says. "She was that way when I was a teenager running errands on the House floor, and she was that way when I walked into her office years later as a soldier with a dream. That kind of consistency tells you everything."

That consistency — personal as much as political — would later shape how she approached LGBTQ+ protections in law. By 2014, when Whitmer was a Michigan state senator, she was already operating under a principle that still feels urgent today: No one in this community gets left behind.

That year, ELCRA was close to reaching the finish line, though not as we currently know it. Republican Senate Majority Leader Randy Richardville, though well-intentioned according to Whitmer, told her the amendment could pass if transgender people were left out. She told him he didn't understand that this was a community. "We're never gonna go for that," she said — using "we" deliberately. "Are you telling me you'll vote against something that gives civil rights to lesbians and gay people?" she recalls him asking. "They would want me to," she said, "to make sure we don't go forward without the trans community — because they're uniquely vulnerable."

For advocates like Denise Brogan-Kator, that stance carried enormous weight.

As someone who had been fired from three jobs because she was transgender, Brogan-Kator, who served as Executive Director of Equality Michigan from 2010 to 2012, recalls how powerful it was


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Gov. Gretchen Whitmer at the Harris-Walz rally in Detroit in August 2024. Photo: Andrew Potter

that Whitmer insisted on the inclusion of transgender people.

"It meant she understood something essential: equality that excludes the most vulnerable is not equality at all. For me, and for many advocates, it was both deeply personal and politically significant. It said that transgender people were not expendable, not an afterthought, and not people who should be told, yet again, to wait our turn."

"Too often there is pressure in movements like ours to accept a partial win and sacrifice the people who are least understood or most politically vulnerable," she adds. "Her stance rejected that. It signaled real allyship and real moral clarity, and it matters enormously."

Those early conversations between Brogan-Kator and Whitmer helped set the stage for what would eventually become the ELCRA amendment.

Brogan-Kator recalls that, before Equality Michigan could focus on marriage equality, which was gaining momentum nationally, this amendment to allow LGBTQ+ Michiganders to "participate in everyday life without fear of being fired, denied housing or otherwise excluded because of who they were" needed to take priority. When she met with Whitmer, she laid out the case for amending ELCRA, but also shared her own story about how the lack of protections affected her.

"She did not respond with platitudes," Brogan-Kator recalls. "She asked pointed, practical questions. Did we know how widespread the problem was? Could we mobilize our constituency? What was our strategy for building support? We talked about organizing in cities and towns across Michigan, in part by passing local non-discrimination ordinances, both to protect people where we could and to build momentum for statewide change."

Whitmer promised her full support and spoke candidly at the time: that amending ELCRA would be difficult with anti-LGBTQ+ forces controlling state government. "I had a tough legislature," she says of her first year as governor. "I stood on principle and was able to get some things done through executive directive, but I didn't have a legislature that was going to work with me to codify Larsen, for instance. They were fighting me on all sorts of things. It was an overwhelmingly Republican, anti-LGBTQ legislature."

That dynamic shifted in 2022, when Democrats swept statewide elections and gained full control of the Michigan Legislature for the first time in nearly 40 years.

Those early meetings left Brogan-Kator certain: Whitmer would stand firm when it mattered most. "I left them believing she was a strong supporter who would use her voice to defend our rights to employment, dignity and non-discrimination," she says.

Nearly a decade later, Whitmer delivered.

What she leaves behind

At a time when LGBTQ+ protections are being stripped away in states across the

country, Whitmer has offered something that can feel rare: proof that progress is still possible. What Michigan has accomplished under Whitmer since 2022 carries even more weight when viewed against what's happening elsewhere. The stakes now couldn't be higher. In 2025 alone, the ACLU tracked 575 anti-LGBTQ+ state bills — most of them aimed squarely at transgender people — and 54 became law, a new record. More than 850 bills targeting transgender people were filed that year, more than in any other year in American history. The progress Michigan has made isn't happening in a vacuum. It's happening in spite of everything.

So how do you know the work you're doing matters, in a state that's moving forward while much of the country seems to be moving backward? Whitmer points to the moments that can't be captured in headlines: the hugs she's received over the years, many as she moved down the line at Motor City Pride. Even when the legislature wasn't working in her favor in 2019, she saw the impact firsthand.

"To show up at Pride events and just that power of showing up and using the platform, I saw how impactful that was and important. I'll never forget that. And the hugs. People say, 'Can I hug you?' And some people would have tears that a governor showed up, much less be there to warmly receive and listen."

She felt the "depth of the meaning of it" — a reminder of "how people do feel excluded."

"It was like a release for them. They felt protected," she says. "And that, for me, said, 'OK, that's my job. That's what I'm here to do: to help, to protect, to support, to uplift.'"

Her impact was felt recently with her final State of the State address in February 2026, when Whitmer made a point to speak directly to the LGBTQ+ community — notably the trans community — just one day after President Donald Trump continued his attacks on trans people.

"I want you to know that you are welcome in Michigan," she said. "You belong, you matter, and no matter who comes after you, I'll stand in the way."

She tells me the feedback was "overwhelming," that community members expressed gratitude for her "staying there when it feels like some allies have gotten quiet."



Whitmer sports her "We" jacket at Motor City Pride in 2021. The jacket is a one-of -a-kind piece designed by Julia Pickett, Whitmer's creative director. Photo: Andrew Potter

"What we've done has not just been noticed, it's been meaningful," Whitmer says. "And I think that's the most important thing. I'm not here to play games. I want to do meaningful work. I want to make real progress. And when I get that feedback from the community and allies of the community, it tells me we've had that real impact."

That impact has extended beyond Michigan to a national platform. When Donald Trump dismissed her as "that woman from Michigan" in April 2020 — as Whitmer enacted safety measures during the COVID-19 pandemic — the phrase didn't diminish her. She claimed it. Soon, it became a viral rallying cry.

It's a moment she points to when asked when she first realized her voice carried beyond state lines. Suddenly, people across the country were paying attention — not just to her pandemic response, but to what she did with that attention afterward, including actions on issues like conversion therapy. That realization sharpened when she was a featured speaker for the Annual Democratic National Committee LGBTQ+ Gala in New York in 2025, where attendees approached her to talk about her work on LGBTQ+ issues.

"I assume Michiganders know who I am, but it was really a surprise to find out that others did too. That was one of those moments that it was like, 'Oh my god, what I'm doing — this platform — is a lot bigger than just Michigan,'" she says. "'And when it comes to responsibility, use it right.'" As governor of the 10th most populous state in the country, she feels that weight acutely, especially since "there's so much hate coming [out of] Washington D.C. right now — and ignorance. I think it's even more important than ever that those of us who have a place of leadership need to use that place."

With the White House amplifying anti-trans rhetoric and rolling back protections, the threat to trans lives has become both political and literal. In 2024, when I spoke with Whitmer, just after the death of Ashia Davis, a trans woman killed in Highland Park at the start of Pride Month, I asked what our state can do to address the epidemic of violence against trans people. She was blunt and action-oriented: "So much of our work is around coalescing allies, raising voices and educating the public. But also holding those who inflict harm on, or murder, members of the community accountable."

Early the following year, that accountability took a concrete form with the passage of the Michigan Hate Crime

Act. The law clarifies what counts as a hate crime and puts meaningful penalties on the books, criminalizing acts from physical violence to property destruction when motivated by bias.

Threats on the horizon

In January 2027, when Whitmer leaves office, a lot could change — we've seen it happen federally to detrimental effect. Her ability to maintain lines of communication across the aisle — including with the current administration — has been both a political asset and, for some in the community, a source of unease. Whitmer has been direct about the tension herself: "I know that there will be times when we're not on the same page and we'll be at odds," she told Bridge Michigan in 2025, "but if I can find common ground, I'm going to do that." She's also been equally clear about the limit: "I will fight back when I need to." During our interview, Whitmer is starkly honest about this when asked if she worries that the work she's done to protect the rights and safety of LGBTQ+ people through legislation could be completely undone.

"Absolutely," she says, bluntly. "These policies have to transcend a change in administration. Obviously, an administration that shares these values coming in is going to be really important to me. I'm going to work my tail off to make sure that that happens."

"No matter who it is, though, it's on all of us to keep the pressure on in Lansing and in Washington D.C. to elect people who will do the work and be unapologetic about it, but also be smart operators about getting stuff done," she adds. "I love a candidate who's got all the same values, but we need a candidate who has that and knows how to get things done."

She's already acting on that. Whitmer has endorsed state Sen. Jeremy Moss in his bid for U.S. Congress — and the choice reflects her priorities. As Michigan's first openly gay state senator, Moss has helped lead many of the state's recent LGBTQ+ policy efforts, including Senate Bill 4, which amended ELCRA. "I'm honored to have her early endorsement for my congressional race, because I think she also sees value in breaking the LGBTQ+ barrier to make sure we send our voice to Congress for the first time," he says. "My goal is to train and elect as many LGBTQ+ members and allies into positions of power across different governmental levels," Whitmer says.

> "While I'm not going to be serving as governor after the end of this calendar year, I ain't going anywhere and I'm not leaving the fight."
>
> — Gov. Gretchen Whitmer

The momentum is real. So is the threat. In March 2026, the Supreme Court voted 8-to-1 to dismantle Colorado's ban on conversion therapy for minors, siding with a Christian therapist who argued the law violated her First Amendment rights. It was a gut punch — and a warning. The majority, written by Justice Neil Gorsuch, didn't rule that conversion therapy works. It ruled that Colorado's ban unconstitutionally restricted what licensed therapists could say, a First Amendment framing that now threatens similar laws in more than 20 states. Michigan is one of them.

"The actions that we took on conversion therapy ban is something that will continue to be a part of public discourse as we see what's going on in D.C. right now," Whitmer says. The ruling only sharpens the urgency. "It's frustrating to see challenges to what is really just good, smart policy and what happened to the Colorado law I'm worried will then be applied to Michigan law."

For trans Michiganders specifically, the threat has moved beyond the courtroom and into the clinic. In August 2025, federal pressure alone — a subpoena, the threat of a criminal investigation — was enough to make University of Michigan Health stop providing gender-affirming care to minors, even though that care remains legal in Michigan and recognized as best practice by major medical associations. No court ordered it. The law hadn't changed. As Erin Knott, executive director of Equality Michigan, put it, the university had simply "chosen to retreat." Attorney General Dana Nessel went further, calling the move "shameful, dangerous and potentially illegal" under Michigan's own antidiscrimination laws.

"[These threats] reinforce for me that these fights are never over. We can't slow down. We can't give up. We have to keep going, putting one foot in front of the other and using every tool we can to do the right thing," Whitmer says.

'A lot of gas in the tank'

Many of us have felt the reach of Whitmer's work differently — in practical terms, in symbolic ones, in the quieter register of simply knowing someone in power is genuinely watching out for you.



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Whitmer has been a regular at Pride festivals both in Lansing (top) and Detroit (bottom) over the years. Photos: Pride Source archives, Andrew Potter

When I first sat down with Gov. Whitmer for this story, I was at a loss for words. Maybe, in her presence, on the receiving end of one of her Pride hugs, you've been there yourself. Part awe, part gratitude — I was conscious of being both a gay person she has actively protected under the law, and a journalist who's supposed to keep his composure. As I tried to express the emotions I was feeling, knowing how soon she'd be leaving office, she offered a calm "you're good, don't worry" — and I recognized something I'd seen described in account after account: Her allyship isn't performed. It's just present.

Barnhart, the former House page, has known this about her for two decades. Now 42, he still returns to the same observation he made at 18: Her kindness was never a calculation. "I've encountered plenty of politicians over the years," he says, "and one thing I've noticed is how skillfully many of them can shift their positions to match the moment — and then reframe history to make it seem like they were always on the right side. Gretchen was never like that. Supporting LGBT people in 2002 wasn't popular, and it wasn't safe. She did it because it was right."

A clear illustration of that is her integration into the community itself — not as a guest of honor at a podium, but as a friend showing up for a birthday.

Sen. Moss puts it plainly: "I'll tell you a true personal story."

It was the summer of 2021. Pandemic restrictions had finally eased enough for people to gather again in restaurants, to breathe the same air in the same room. "The first outing that Gretchen Whitmer herself made," Moss says, "was a birthday celebration for me." They went to Five15 in Royal Oak for drag queen bingo hosted by Sabin. The governor's first post-restriction night out wasn't a ribbon-cutting or a press event. It was a drag show for her friend's birthday. "I've been to drag shows with her a few times in Royal Oak," he says.

This wasn't 2015. In some ways, it felt closer to 2002. Drag has spent the last few years in the crosshairs of legislatures across the country. Yet again, she showed up anyway.

"What you see is what you get with her," Moss says. "There's no facade to break through. She is genuine. She is real. How she talks off the cuff, whether in a media interview or in person, is exactly who she is."

Barnhart has experienced that firsthand. Years later, during her second campaign, he attended a volunteer event where she spoke before they headed out to knock doors. She recognized him immediately — significant time had passed — and he had the joy of introducing her to his then-fiancé, now his husband. He vividly remembers her pulling him into a hug, then turning to the crowd and punctuating her call to vote homophobes out of office with an expletive.

"I love her for that," Barnhart says. "Not for the language, but for what it represents. She wasn't performing for donors or carefully choosing words for a press release. She was speaking



Gov. Gretchen Whitmer flanked by her two dogs, Doug and Kevin. Photo: Andrew Potter

from her heart, in front of a room full of volunteers who were there because they believed in her. That's the difference between someone who supports a cause and someone who actually lives it. She has always been the latter."

Now, as she leaves office in January 2027, her legacy has been woven into the laws she's enshrined with her signature. Moss is clear-eyed about what that means. "She's led on these issues and she's made them a priority — for just the moral reason of ensuring that our lived experience is valid and protected under the law," he says. "But she's also made the case that this has enhanced our entire state as a whole. It has been a benefit to Michigan economically and competitively to embrace the LGBTQ+ community and make it a welcoming state."

For Moss, the argument was never just about rights. "There is an economic and business case to be made that protecting LGBTQ+ people keeps Michigan competitive, keeps Michigan as vibrant as possible as a state in the country."

Knott puts the arc in focus. "Gretchen Whitmer's advocacy has meant that, for the first time in a long time, LGBTQ+ Michiganders have had consistent, visible support from the governor's office," she says. "That kind of steady leadership has helped shift the tone statewide from uncertainty to affirmation." What makes it matter, Knott says, is that it's no longer just symbolic. "Her legacy as an LGBTQ+ ally is really about making equality durable. Before this, protections often depended on interpretation or were vulnerable to being rolled back. Under her leadership, they've been codified into law. That changes everything — it gives people real recourse and real security."

Whitmer isn't finished. She still has the rainbow Hush Puppies she wears every year to Pride ("my supportive mom shoes"), still has Sherry's sweater (for now) — and still has a community she's not done fighting for. The cool mom, it turns out, is also in it for the long haul.

In December 2025, Whitmer was unanimously selected as vice chair of the Democratic Governors Association heading into the 2026 midterms, a role that puts her squarely in the middle of the party's national strategy — and keeps her name in circulation for 2028. She ruled out a run for the U.S. Senate seat left by Gary Peters' retirement and has repeatedly shut down direct questions about a presidential bid, but she's also never taken herself out of the running. Political observers describe her posture as "strategic ambiguity" — keeping her options genuinely open while she decides what comes next.

"While I'm not going to be serving as governor after the end of this calendar year, I ain't going anywhere and I'm not leaving the fight," she says, like she means every word of it. "And I've got a lot of gas in the tank. I don't know how exactly I'm going to expend it, but we've made a lot of progress and I'm determined to make sure we don't go backward."

Because if you know anything about Gretchen Whitmer by now, you know she's not the type to leave a fight before it's won.



Rep. Jason Hoskins. Photo: Michigan House Democrats

Michigan's Queer Political Power: What 50 Years Built — and Why 2026 Could Undo It

From one council seat in 1974 to leaders like Dana Nessel and Jeremy Moss today, the state's queer political arc has been neither straight nor steady

By Nick Fulton

Three years before Harvey Milk's ceiling-shattering victory in San Francisco, a 21-year-old from Plymouth, Michigan, accomplished one of the most defining moments in queer political history. Kathy Kozachenko ran for Ann Arbor City Council as an activist, a student leader and a lesbian — and she won.

While fellow council members Nancy Wechsler and Jerry DeGrieck, elected the year before, were also gay, Kozachenko was open about her identity during the campaign, and her victory was a watershed moment in Michigan politics. It offered something radical for its time: proof that queer people could not only participate in politics, but win as their authentic selves.

That spark did not ignite a straight line of progress. It lit a fire that has flared, dimmed and, at times, nearly burned out.

From Kozachenko's 1974 victory to the passage of one of the nation's most restrictive constitutional amendments banning same-sex marriage in 2004, to the long-awaited expansion of the Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act in 2023, Michigan's arc of queer political power

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Former Ann Arbor City Councilmembers Mary Richman (left) and Kathy Kozachenko in 1974. Photo: Ann Arbor District Library/Jack Stubbs

has bent in multiple directions. In a state often defined by its "purple" political makeup, neither bright red nor brilliant blue, LGBTQ+ Michiganders have experienced both some of the country's most exclusionary policies and some of its most meaningful advances.

Building power, fighting exclusion

When Michigan passed the Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act in 1976, just two years after Kozachenko's election, it was hailed as one of the most comprehensive anti-discrimination laws in the country. It prohibited discrimination based on religion, race, color, national origin, age, sex or marital status.

But LGBTQ+ people were not included.

The omission would define the next several decades of advocacy, litigation and political organizing. For queer Michiganders, the law stood as a reminder of deliberate exclusion.

Advocates like Ruth Ellis, born in Springfield, Illinois in 1899 and long rooted in Detroit, carried the fire in ways no legislation could. For decades, her home served as an informal gathering place for Black LGBTQ+ Detroiters who had nowhere else to go — a living room that became a lifeline, years before the term "community center" entered the vocabulary of queer organizing. Ellis lived to 101, her life spanning Jim Crow, Stonewall and the dawn of marriage equality. While politicians debated who deserved recognition, people like Ellis ensured survival. Her namesake center in Detroit carries that work forward today, providing support to LGBTQ+ young people.

By the early 2000s, however, the political climate had hardened.

"It was very tough in our state in regards to LGBTQ+ rights because you didn't have the executive branch supportive, you didn't have the legislature supportive, and you had a very activist conservative court that was not supportive," Jay Kaplan, staff attorney for the ACLU of Michigan's LGBTQ+ Project, told Pride Source.

Kaplan joined the project in 2001, after years of working in disability rights and HIV/AIDS advocacy. At the time, he said, Michigan's legal framework didn't just fail to protect queer people, it actively worked against them.

In 2002, the chief judge of Washtenaw County, Archie Brown, ordered judges to stop granting second-parent adoptions to same-sex couples. Two years later, then-Attorney General Mike Cox issued an opinion stating that same-sex couples legally married elsewhere could not jointly adopt children in Michigan.

Soon after, voters approved Proposal 04-2, a constitutional amendment defining marriage strictly as between one man and one woman. It passed by a wide margin, cementing Michigan's reputation as one of the most hostile states in the country for LGBTQ+ families.

In 2014, Rolling Stone ranked Michigan in their top five worst states for LGBTQ+

people. No legal protections from hate crimes or discrimination, no hope for marriage equality, no family rights and a legacy of obstacles at every level.

So what changed?

The shift: from margins to the legislature

By 2014, in all the places where queer people were brave enough to fight for a seat, the groundwork for change was being laid. That year, then-state Reps. Jeremy Moss and Jon Hoadley formed Michigan's first LGBTQ+ legislative caucus, a group of two. It was small, but it marked a shift: queer representation was no longer an idea. It was structural.

Over time, cultural attitudes evolved alongside political strategy.

"We have infrastructure now to influence elections like we never had in the past," said Tim Retzloff, an assistant professor at Michigan State University who has documented LGBTQ+ history across the state. "Queer political breakthroughs have been a motivator politically for certain segments of the voting population."

Legal victories accelerated that momentum. The 2015 U.S. Supreme Court's decision in Obergefell v. Hodges legalized same-sex marriage nationwide, reshaping the legal landscape that Michigan had once helped restrict. Kaplan sees that transformation clearly.

"We're no longer looked at as a lost state. We're no longer looked at as a place people leave," he said.

After years of being beaten back, the fire was spreading again.

In 2018, when Dana Nessel was elected attorney general, becoming the first openly LGBTQ+ person elected to statewide office in Michigan. "My predecessor as Michigan Attorney General was the opposing party on the Obergefell case, spending our state's tax dollars to argue that my wife and I didn't deserve the right to get married or jointly adopt our children," Nessel told Pride Source.

Her victory represented more than a single election. It signaled that LGBTQ+ candidates could not only compete statewide but also win even in a politically divided state.



Dana Nessel in 2019. Courtesy photo

"I spent years watching the resources of this office be used to delay and denounce necessary, legal protections for residents in my state, just like me. I realized then more than ever Michigan needed an attorney general who would protect, instead of persecute families like mine," Nessel added.

The present moment: power and precarity

Today, Michigan has the largest LGBTQ+ legislative caucus in its history, with seven openly queer lawmakers serving in the state legislature. Their presence has already reshaped policy outcomes.

In 2023, Michigan expanded the Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act to include sexual orientation and gender identity, a change nearly 50 years in the making.

"Our most vulnerable LGBTQ+ community members really needed non-discrimination desperately. Elliott-Larsen was huge because it was such a long-fought battle," state Rep. Emily Dievendorf said. "We know philosophically and spiritually that fighting for love and the ability to live authentically is both the bare minimum and also something that nobody else should care to interfere with in our lives."

Rep. Dievendorf, Michigan's first nonbinary legislator, was part of the coalition that helped push the expansion forward, alongside lawmakers like state Sen. Jeremy Moss, who sponsored the legislation.

"We took the helm with a pro-equality majority in the legislature for the first time. And it was a very significant deal to be recognized in that law after a long struggle and ensure that if somebody is discriminated against at work, in their housing, in publicly available spaces, there's a remedy for justice," Moss told Pride Source.

For Moss, who became Michigan's first openly gay state senator in 2018, this moment is less a culmination than a continuation. Proof of what representation can build over time, and how quickly it can be tested. His 2026 run for Congress, where he could become the first openly LGBTQ+ person to represent Michigan at the federal level, reflects a shift that once felt out of reach.

"For decades, queer people weren't just excluded from power. They were erased from culture, from institutions, from the story of what it meant to belong," state Rep. Jason Morgan said. "I want to make sure that we are never to be made invisible or made to feel less than because of our identities ever again. And the strongest way to do that is to have a seat at the table as decisions are being made."

LGBTQ+ representation in Michigan is no longer something that happens after the fact, or quietly, or at the margins. It has begun to reshape the internal culture of political power itself — visible, present and, increasingly, unapologetic.

"During my lifetime, people might come out, but in a lot of cases, it was after they were done serving. And now that's not the case. Now, there are people who I serve with who are openly and vibrantly living out," state Rep. Laurie Pohutsky said. "I really love the defiance that comes in refusing to back down and to just live authentically and to serve your community authentically."

And yet, that visibility exists alongside a growing sense of vulnerability, a recognition that progress, no matter how hard-won, is not self-sustaining.

"The Republicans have already been talking about rolling back a lot of the legislation that we've passed, whether it's around LGBTQ+ people or our environmental protections or our gun legislation," said state Rep. Mike McFall. "I do feel like this is a time in Michigan [when], if we do not take back the House and if we do not maintain a way to stop Republicans, they will roll back everything, all of the progress that we have made."

As of spring 2026, the ACLU was tracking over 500 anti-LGBTQ+ bills across the country, 22 of which had been introduced in Michigan. In March 2026, the Supreme Court sided with a Christian therapist, striking down a law banning conversion therapy in Colorado. In February 2026, every trans person who had updated their official gender marker in Kansas had their IDs and birth certificates invalidated. Since taking office in 2025, President Donald Trump has attacked queer people with a slate of executive orders targeting transgender youth, healthcare accessibility, gender-affirming care and much more.

"I think it felt like for a minute these rights were untouchable," Moss said. "And now it just seems like it's a backslide because they're talking about us. They're talking about trans rights. They're talking about LGBTQ+ youth. They're demonizing LGBTQ+ people. They're waging campaigns on our backs."

Nessel sees the same pattern emerging.

"We're on the other side of that wave of progress, and we're starting to watch it recede, through national sentiment, through egregious rulings by SCOTUS; it does feel like there's another shift underway," Nessel said. "The Trump administration has made no secret about its animosity towards the transgender community and LGBTQ+ rights in general. The landscape of LGBTQ+ protections has developed very quickly over the last decade or so, but that progress may disappear just as quickly if we don't stand strong together in this moment."

What comes next

The question now is not whether queer people can win office in Michigan. That barrier has been broken repeatedly. The question is what that power can withstand.

Every member of Michigan's LGBTQ+ legislative caucus faces reelection in 2026. The margins remain thin. The political environment remains volatile.

"It's still concerning that there could either be multiple LGBTQ+ people in the Senate or there might not be any. There might be two LGBTQ+ people of color in the Senate or, again, there might not be any," Rep. Jason Hoskins noted. "We just need to continue to build power ... we need to continue to be at the table."

Hoskins, the first Black LGBTQ+ person elected to the Michigan Legislature, represents both the expansion of representation and the stakes of losing it.

Fifty years after Kathy Kozachenko's victory, queer political power in Michigan is no longer an aspiration. It's a fact — and a target.

The fire Kozachenko helped ignite is still burning, but not as a steady flame — as something more dynamic. It surges. It flickers. And in moments like this one, it demands tending.



Rep. Emily Dievendorf. Photo: Michigan House Democrats



Rep. Jason Morgan. Photo: Michigan House Democrats

"You yourself may not be a political person, but your identity has been politicized. To pretend otherwise is irresponsible," Nessel said. "If we stick our heads in the sand and ignore the world around us, then we won't get a say in what comes next. It will be up to the next generation of LGBTQ+ leaders to capitalize on the momentum we've built in order to propel us forward."



Emme Zanotti at home. Photo: Andrew Potter

The Foundry Worker's Daughter Who Became a Fierce Trans Advocate

How Equality Michigan's Emme Zanotti has built a movement from the ground up

By Anni Arbour

When Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton directed Child Protective Services to begin investigating the homes of parents with transgender children in early 2022, Emme Zanotti was sitting in a corporate office in Michigan, watching from hundreds of miles away. The distance between her desk and the fight felt impossible to sustain.

"I was always on the outside of where I had to be to solve some of the problems I was seeing," she recalled. "So I just kept trying to get closer and closer to the core."

In a commentary she wrote for Michigan Advance that March, Zanotti made the case that what was happening in Texas wasn't a regional problem. "It may be tempting to sit in Detroit, 1,400 miles from the Texas capital of Austin, and think this is a Southern issue, a Bible-belt problem," she wrote. "Though reality is telling us something different. This is not in fact a Texas issue. This is an American issue."

It was, she said, her "now or never" moment. She began charting her exit from corporate America and landed at Equality Michigan, Michigan's statewide LGBTQ+ political advocacy organization, where she now serves as senior director of movement building and political affairs and has become one of the most prominent trans voices in the state.

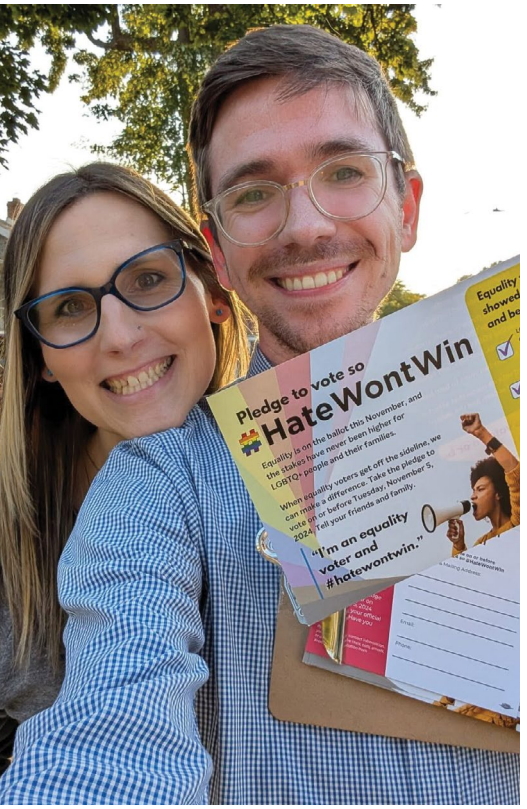
Since joining the organization, Zanotti has been central to some of the most significant LGBTQ+ legislative wins in Michigan's recent history, including advocating for the expansion of the Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act, passing a law to remove the "gay panic" legal defense and enactment of House Bills 5300-5303, a package of bills that simplified name and gender marker changes on legal documents.

State Rep. Laurie Pohutsky, D-Livonia, has worked alongside Zanotti in those legislative battles and called her "a force of nature [who] approaches every challenge with patience and an infectious optimism that I aspire to possess someday."

"It's not lost on me that she has every

right to be angry and resentful because of the fights being brought to her right now, and maybe she is," Pohutsky told Pride Source. "But she doesn't let any of that cloud her extremely clear purpose, and I admire that about her."

Jay Kaplan, staff attorney for the ACLU of Michigan's LGBTQ+ Rights Project, credited Zanotti's coalition-building



Emme Zanotti and an Equality Michigan volunteer canvassing ahead of the 2024 election. Courtesy photo

instincts for much of her effectiveness. "She has worked incredibly hard to foster relationships, not only with LGBTQ+ organizations, but progressive allied organizations, as well as elected officials," Kaplan said. "You can count on Emme, 100 percent, to show up and contribute to any program and activity, and her contribution will be significant and meaningful."

For someone who regularly commands a room at legislative hearings and draws statewide media attention, Zanotti stays close to the everyday work. "My favorite part of my job is me and my team meeting our community members where they are," she said. For her, helping someone navigate a passport issue is as important as helping win a floor vote.

Those who know her only through that public role might be surprised to learn she maintains a collection of 321 vinyl records, writes free verse poetry on Instagram and holds what she calls the "controversial" opinion that Pearl Jam's Eddie Vedder is the "King of Grunge." Zanotti describes herself as an "old soul" with a particular affinity for anything pre-Great Depression. On LinkedIn, she once captured her approach to the job in a single line: "No stage is too big for my nerves, and no individual is too small for my undivided attention, diligence and service."

Built from Bay City

To understand where Zanotti is headed, it helps to know where she started.

She was born in Bremerhaven, Germany, while her father was stationed at a nearby U.S. military base, and the family returned to Bay City in 1989, when she was 1 year old. Growing up the daughter of a foundry worker in a sprawling Italian-American, Catholic family — nearly 30 first cousins, five of whom walked across the same high school graduation stage with her — Zanotti learned early what it meant to work for what you had.

"I spend a lot of time thinking about how happy I am to be a foundry worker's daughter," she said. "My dad and I probably disagree on a lot, but I'm proud of that upbringing. Proud that I had a family where there were always decisions to be made about how we were going to balance three little kids with making enough money to pay the bills."

Sports were a given. Hockey came first, beginning around age 5 or 6. She consumed the sport with an intensity that set her apart from teammates. "You could ask me the name of a particular Zamboni driver on a team, for instance, and I would know it." Football followed, a multigenerational Zanotti tradition played out across the fields of Bay City Central High School. When she was a teenager, the local paper devoted nearly a full page to the family legacy, with Zanotti photographed in full uniform alongside her cousins.

"All the boys before me played football," she said. "That was what you were expected to do, that was the rite of passage."

The expectation followed her to Alma College, where she played two more seasons during her freshman and sophomore years. Growing up in the Zanotti family, it could be difficult to separate the sports legacy from individual identity. Beneath the football pads and under the weight of her family legacy, Zanotti was quietly negotiating something more personal.

She had felt a gender incongruity since early childhood, one she kept to herself in moments like slipping into her sister's closet after school to find something else to wear — until she was told "that was something we didn't do in our family." After that, she carried her dysphoria in silence, a truth that felt impossible to speak given everything around her.

Years later, describing the effects of President Trump's anti-trans executive orders on education for the Detroit Free Press, she would conjure the image of "the 13-year-old trans girl who wears cute dresses and has posters of Chappell Roan on her wall, who paints her nails instead of playing football." That girl could have been her, a generation earlier.

The suppression took a toll, and Zanotti has been open about the mental health struggles that trace back to those years — deliberately, specifically open, in ways she hopes will reach people who are still in the middle of it. She frames that history not as something to be pitied but as something hard-won and worth sharing.

"Mental health is an important part of my life journey. I would not want it to be omitted," she said, careful to frame her lived experience on her own terms. "[I'd] much rather be celebrated for my struggles than my achievements."

She describes her lowest points with the same directness she brings to legislative hearings. "Mental health-wise, nervous-system-wise, I've been through hell before and found myself back there again," she said. Knowing she made it through is, for her, inseparable from the work she does now.

"I hope people can look at me and know beyond a doubt that I've at times had to negotiate with and fight my own brain,"

she continued. "I'll never be ashamed of that, because it's how I know other folks can push through this moment as well."

The first fight

Zanotti wouldn't begin to close that distance publicly until after college. In 2012, she took a job at Domino's world headquarters in Ann Arbor, working in corporate accounting. It was during that period that she finally came out as trans to herself and those around her.

She describes her family as people with "good hearts" who were "very accepting" of her coming out, even if she isn't certain "all of them get it, but most of them try." At Domino's, though, co-workers "felt entitled to share their opinions." Widespread misunderstanding of transgender healthcare across the corporation pushed her to start advocating for herself, including educating human resources staff and organizational leaders, making the case that trans healthcare is simply healthcare.

"I call that story of self-advocacy my gateway to where I'm at today," she said.

The advocacy followed her to her next role at Ally, a financial services company, where she moved from accounting into the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion department and eventually rose to a managerial position. Outside work, she joined the Stand With Trans board of directors, volunteered with the Human Rights Campaign and managed Oakland County Commissioner Charlie Cavell's successful 2020 campaign, an effort that brought her deeper into the state's Democratic political infrastructure. In 2023, Cavell described her to Pride Source as "a tremendously amazing person who is thoughtful, understanding and, above all, empathetic."

From 2021 to 2023, Zanotti served as vice chair of the Michigan Democratic Party's LGBTQ&A Caucus and joined the LGBTQ+ for Whitmer Leadership Council in 2022, before officially joining Equality Michigan as director of advocacy and civic engagement in January 2023.

Even as she has become one of the state's most recognized trans advocates, the scope of Zanotti's public work can obscure who she is outside it — the poet, the record collector, the foundry worker's daughter who never left her roots behind. She is "perpetually grateful" for the upbringing that shaped her, she said, and it informs everything about how she moves through a world that is simultaneously asking more of trans people and offering them less.



Emme Zanotti at home. Photo: Andrew Potter

"I don't think folks should have to leave their hometowns or leave their state, leave houses behind, just so they can feel safe," she said.

For Zanotti, the fight can't happen only at the legislative level. It has to happen in living rooms and at family dinners — in the conversations that feel impossible until someone decides to start having them.

"We have to get more comfortable sharing our stories with our neighbors," she said. "We have to get more comfortable persisting in those uncomfortable conversations with that brother-in-law, that aunt or uncle. The only way out is through."

The Story Behind the Stories

Pride Source Executive Editor Chris Azzopardi has spent 20 years asking the right questions — for our readers, and for all of us



By Sarah Bricker Hunt

On any given week, Chris Azzopardi might be on the phone with Cher in the morning and, by afternoon, editing a story about a queer teen in rural Michigan who started a Pride event in a town that had never seen one. He has been doing some version of this for 20 years — building, from a desk in Southeast Michigan, one of the most distinctive voices in LGBTQ+ journalism in the country, without ever losing sight of the reader who needs this publication most. Azzopardi, Pride Source Media's executive editor and brand director, has spent 20 years doing two things at once: telling the stories of this community to itself, and telling the world that those stories matter.

While overseeing the editorial and creative direction for Between The Lines, Michigan's longest-running LGBTQ+ print publication, and Q Syndicate, the wire service owned by Pride Source Media that distributes his work to LGBTQ+ publications across the country, Azzopardi has built a career as a celebrity interviewer by getting people to say things they haven't said anywhere else — and to reveal more than they intended.

His byline appears regularly in The New York Times, where he contributes film criticism and culture writing, and he has been published in Vanity Fair, GQ, Billboard and New York Magazine, among others. His 2014 interview with a very candid Sinéad O'Connor was selected for "Sinéad O'Connor: The Last Interview and Other Conversations," published by Penguin Random House, and his Dolly Parton conversation that same year was among 25 interviews included in "Dolly on Dolly: Interviews and Encounters with Dolly Parton." His personal essay for the Times about Mariah Carey — about what her music meant to a queer kid who grew up in suburban Canton with nowhere else to put those feelings — gave him a platform

Chris Azzopardi at home with issues of BTL from over the years. Photo: Andrew Potter

he'd been building toward his whole career without quite knowing it.

All of that, and he still picks up the phone every time a Michigan community member has a story that needs to be told.

The question underneath every conversation, whether he's on the phone with a major pop star or profiling a local advocate in Ferndale, is essentially the same: Where do you stand when it comes to our community, and how do you feel about us? "I'm writing to the younger me who needed representation and visibility," he explains. As an independent publication, Pride Source has always given him the full autonomy to pursue that question on his own terms, a freedom, he says, that has shaped everything. "We can do something that's more unique and special because of that," he says of independent media. "We're allowed to call those shots."

Pride Source was among those recognized by the Society of Professional Journalists for journalism completed in 2025, a body of work that included Azzopardi's profile of Kris and Dave Hutton, the beloved straight Detroit couple who went viral for their joyful, relentless LGBTQ+ advocacy online. The Hutton piece is quintessential Azzopardi — a story that could have been a quick news item, turned into something that stays with readers. When he later posted about interviewing Gov. Gretchen Whitmer, Kris Cravens-Hutton responded on Instagram with an unsolicited endorsement that said more than most formal reviews could. "If you ever get a call from Chris Azzopardi asking to interview you, the only answer is 'hell yes,'" she wrote. "Not because he is an interrogator, but because he is so lovely, and kind, and the best listener."

What 20 years of this work looks like

Azzopardi has been writing about film and pop culture since he was old enough to staple paper together. For his middle school publication called the Lancer Press, he wrote a column called "Critic's Corner," reviewing movies like "Evita" and "Kazaam." He was not, he says, intentionally trying to manifest a future as a film critic. The path from that staple-bound newspaper to a rotation among the Times' film reviewers — first for pop star documentaries, then for narrative features — still feels surreal to him. "How is it possible that there is a job like this out there for me?" he says, something he first asked himself at 23, when he started at Pride Source, and has apparently kept asking ever since.

Long before he was fielding calls from Cher's publicist, Azzopardi was filing entertainment copy for the Eastern Echo, Eastern Michigan University's student newspaper, conducting early interviews that foreshadowed everything that followed. In 2005, when this reporter came on as editor-in-chief, Azzopardi became entertainment editor — a title that understated, even then, what he was building. That kind of overlap is not unusual in this industry; what's unusual is that the people who found each other in Michigan kept finding ways to do bigger work together without losing the thing that made the early work resonant. BTL has always been outward-looking. It has also always been, at its center, a small group of people who know each other well enough to get out of each other's way.

D'Anne Witkowski, who was managing editor at the time of Azzopardi's hire, remembers advocating for him in the room where that decision was made. "Back then he was a kid with a Mariah Carey obsession," she recalls. "He had enthusiasm that balanced out his lack of experience at the time. I was fairly certain that he would learn and grow quickly. He was a joy to work with then and is still a joy to work with now."

Former managing editor Josef Stephens recalls a reporter who was green but clearly headed somewhere. "He was inquisitive and well on his way," Stephens says. "Looking at his story catalog is beyond impressive. I'm humbled to think I played even a small role in his development and success."

> "I wanted to interview some of these people because they were my pop icon heroes. But I also wanted to talk to them about issues that were and are important to a community of people I care about."
>
> — Chris Azzopardi

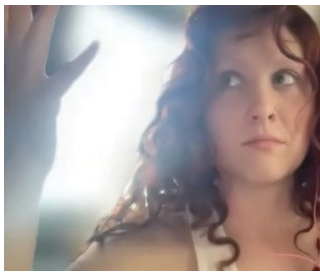
Given that he's gone on to interview names such as Cher, Meryl Streep and, as featured in this issue, Gov. Gretchen Whitmer, it's hard to believe his first interview with comedian and queer icon Margaret Cho, as a college student, was conducted by phone with a colleague alongside him, because he was too nervous to go it alone. That early mix of awe and anxiety would, in its own way, foreshadow the dual focus that came to define his work.

When Q Syndicate was acquired by Pride Source just a few years after he was hired, he saw an opportunity to leverage its readership — a network of regional LGBTQ+ publications across the country — to build something nobody had tried before: a celebrity interview platform with queer community journalism at its core. "I was trying to do two things," he says. "I wanted to interview some of these people because they were my pop icon heroes. But I also wanted to talk to them about issues that were and are important to a community of

people that I care about."

Getting access was its own fight. In the early years, some publicists would take his requests, string him along and then pull the interview at the last moment. "They were scared," he says. "Scared what it might do to their client — how that might affect them just by merely doing an interview with LGBTQ+ press." His response was persistent and strategic: He named names, showed what others had already done, made them feel like they were missing something important. As his interview roster grew to include Beyoncé and Lady Gaga, the calculus shifted. "That made it much easier when I got those big names for them to be convinced that we were legitimate," he says. "I was working really hard to convince those people that we were as legitimate as the mainstream press."







(Clockwise, from top left): Azzopardi with Dolly Parton at Dollywood during a Netflix press junket for her series "Heartstrings," 2
the General Motors Style event, 2008. Gov. Whitmer following their interview for this issue's cover story, April 2026. (Whitmer p

The interviews that resulted were often unlike anything those subjects had done before. When Azzopardi told Mariah Carey at the top of a call that she had literally saved his life as a queer kid who was suicidal and had no representation, the walls came down. She told him something she hadn't said in many interviews — that sometimes the voice isn't perfect, and she just does what she can with it. "That is not characteristic of Mariah," he notes. His interview with Broadway icon Elaine Stritch, conducted in person, nearly unraveled before it began. Her caretaker warned him she would smell his nerves; the warning did not help. Stritch came in, warmed to the flowers he'd brought near Valentine's Day, and then the conversation found its footing when they discovered a shared experience of feeling like outsiders. She ended up delaying the Los Angeles Times. She told him he could ask her anything.

When Cher's longtime publicist Liz Rosenberg — who has worked with Madonna and Stevie Nicks — emailed Azzopardi after his 2023 interview with the icon, she didn't hedge. "Really that was one of my favorite Cher interviews," she wrote. "You were both perfection."

Christian music star Amy Grant, sitting down with Azzopardi before marriage equality was law for her first-ever LGBTQ+ press interview, put her finger on something he'd been doing without quite naming it. Every question he asked, she told him, seemed to carry an undertone of "tell me I'm OK." He's thought about it ever since. "Me in that situation isn't just me anymore," he says he realized. "It's an entire community of people who have felt marginalized and oppressed."

Some of those conversations traveled well beyond the original publication. When Annie Lennox spoke to him about Beyoncé and feminism, the exchange was picked up widely enough that she was asked about it on "The View" — a question that had originated with Pride Source. When he posed a question to Kelly Clarkson about raising a hypothetical queer child, the exchange went viral, picked up by HuffPost and Entertainment Tonight. Beyoncé's team, he notes, declined that same question when he submitted it ahead of her interview — the only question they asked him to remove. His thinking was always the same: Somewhere, a parent in an insular community was actually going through that and might be listening.

The reach has also extended to unexpected corners of American music. Country stars — artists from a genre not typically associated with LGBTQ+ press — have talked to Azzopardi in ways that surprised even him: Reba McEntire, Kacey Musgraves, Miranda Lambert, Natalie Maines of The Chicks. When he sat down with Shania Twain, her publicist stepped in mid-interview to ask if they could avoid politics. Azzopardi pushed back. In a 2018









019; Chappell Roan on Zoom from her tour bus, 2023; Elaine Stritch after their sit-down at her home, 2014; Azzopardi interviewing Mary J. Blige alongside local press at hoto by Andrew Potter)

Guardian interview, the Canadian singer had said she would have voted for Donald Trump because "even though he was offensive, he seemed honest" — a comment she later apologized for — and he wasn't going to leave the room without asking about it. "I don't consider this a political question," he told her. Twain said to let him ask it and she'd decide whether to answer (she did).

In recent years, the landscape has shifted in a different way. The early years of his career were largely spent interviewing straight allies — artists willing to speak to queer press about queer issues at a time when few famous queer people were publicly out. That's changed. A new generation of out celebrities like interview subjects Matt Bomer, Chappell Roan and Brandi Carlile has evolved the coverage. "There's more opportunity for me to interview them because there are just more of them," Azzopardi says. "That wasn't the case 15 years ago."

Jenkins, who acquired Pride Source Media in 2020 and appointed Azzopardi as editorial director, says the publication's credibility is directly tied to that work. "Chris has been integral to what BTL has become editorially," Jenkins says. "He brings a level of thoughtfulness and dedication to the work that sets the tone for everything we publish. Our readers trust us, and a lot of that trust is built on his work."

That trust extends to the writers Azzopardi has brought up through the publication. Liam Clymer, who interned with Pride Source and recently took a multimedia journalist position at ABC12 in Flint, describes a mentor who made space without making conditions. "Chris has been a steadfast hand on my shoulder as I've tried to navigate an evolving journalism landscape," Clymer says. "He's the type of person to see the potential in everyone and back them up unequivocally. I still remember coming to him with wide-ranging ideas on how to produce social media news content — he was never limiting or apprehensive. He would simply ask what he could do to support my vision and offer guidance if things got bumpy."

Ashley D'Souza, who now holds a Smithsonian museum science writing fellowship and is pursuing a master's degree at MIT, wrote to Azzopardi after their time with Pride Source. "Working with you and Pride Source has shown me that my voice as a writer — and especially as a QPOC writer — is important and belongs in the journalism space," they told him. "I now feel confident enough in my foundations to pursue a specialized degree."



Chris Azzopardi at home. Photo: Andrew Potter

Writing for the community that made him

Azzopardi grew up in Canton and as a teenager stumbled across copies of BTL at the Plymouth Coffee Bean — a coffee shop where a barely-out kid could pick up a newspaper and feel, quietly, a little less alone. He came out at 18. When he first stepped into the staff writer role at BTL at 23, one of the things he was doing, he says now, was finding a queer community he'd never been part of. "It was about creating relationships with people and feeling like I could finally be a part of something I'd never been a part of."

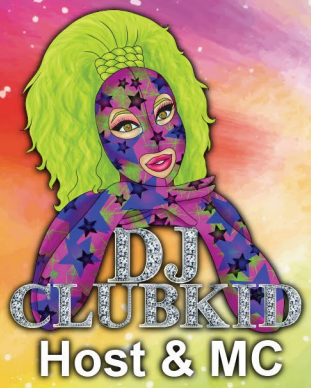
Some of those relationships now span the entire arc of the publication. At the filming of a video project focused on BTL's nearly three-decade legacy, he found himself in a room with longtime advocates including Tim Retzloff, Judy Lewis and Jay Kaplan, whom he's known since his first year on the job. "I really felt the power of us knowing each other for so long," he says. "There was just a feeling of mutual trust, which is built on longevity."

Since those early days, the local LGBTQ+ community has always included a wide range of intersecting identities, including one of the most visible, vocal trans communities across the nation. One of Azzopardi's first priorities after being named editorial director was expanding the publication's coverage of trans people, earlier than many outlets in this space, and with the conviction of someone who understood what it meant to have people fight for your rights before you were ready to fight for your own. "As somebody whose rights were fought for," he says, "I have a responsibility now to do what I can to stand up for a subgroup of our community." Among the covers he's proudest of is one featuring original artwork by a 15-year-old trans kid, proof that this publication, in his hands, can move from a publicist declaring an interview perfection to giving a teenager's art a print run that reaches readers across Michigan.

"To continue to help people feel seen and not alone," Azzopardi says of what comes next. "Storytelling is an incredibly useful tool in making sure that our history is not erased."

Somewhere right now, 20 years later, a kid is picking up this magazine and feeling a little less alone. That's always been the point.

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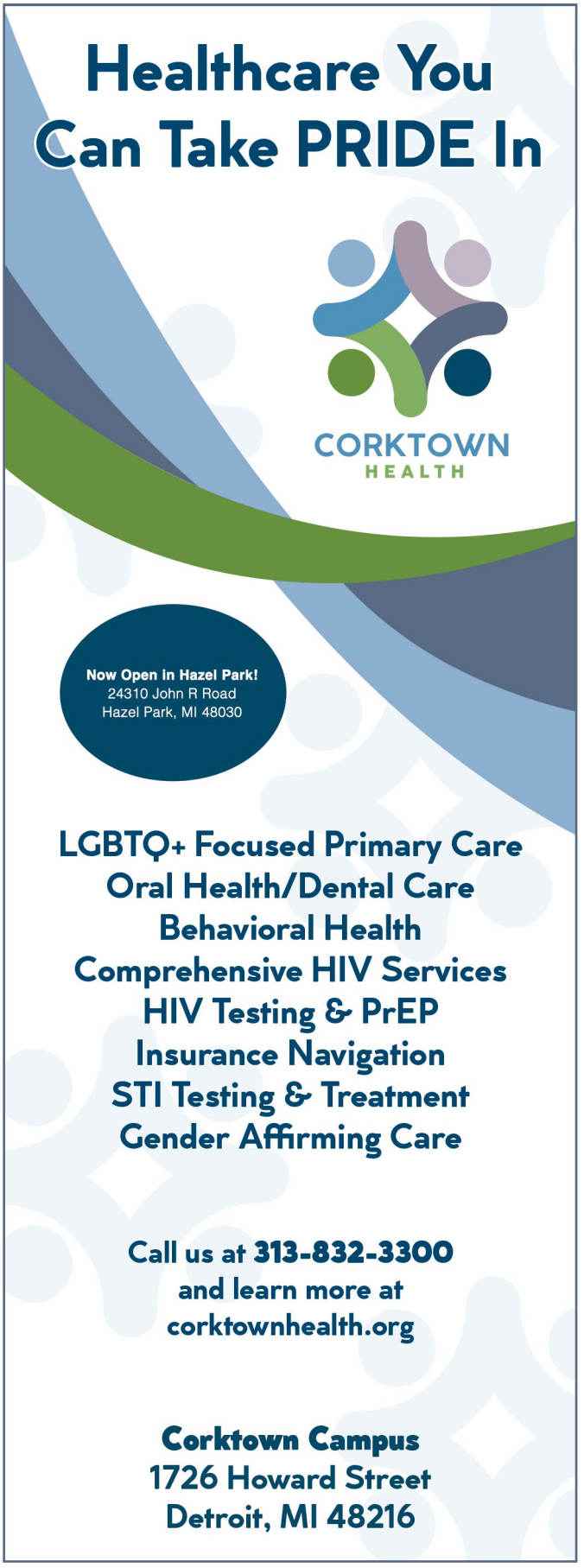
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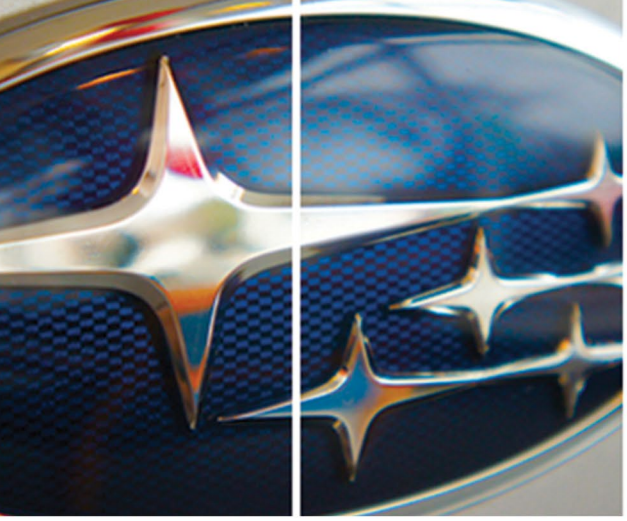
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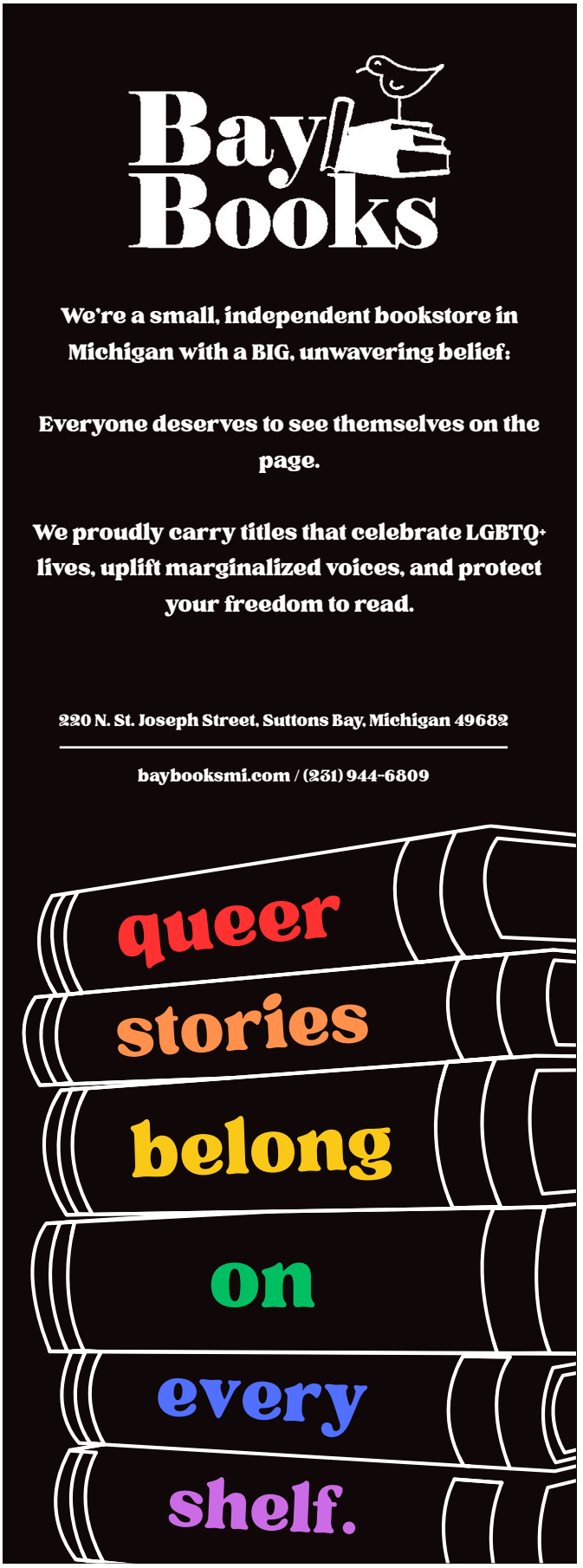
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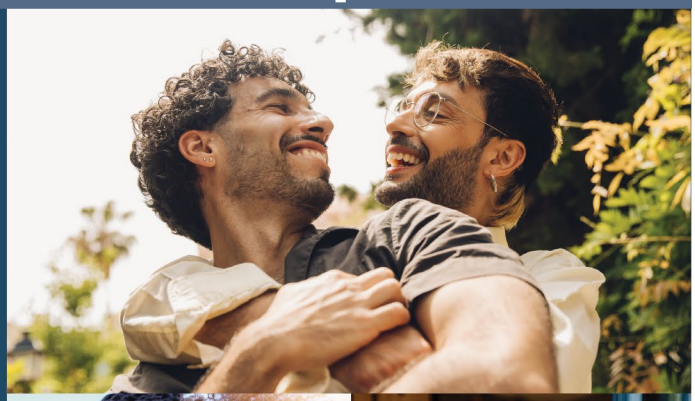
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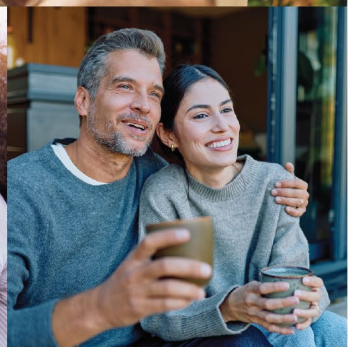
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awbs.org
313-924-7860

AWBS has four locations in Wayne and Macomb counties and a dedicated staff that works to offer the resources necessary to enjoy a full and meaningful life. Our services include; mental health, support for those with intellectual developmental disabilities, substance use disorder treatment and prevention, integrated health care and HIV/AIDS prevention.

Birth Detroit
16919 Prairie St
Detroit, MI 48221
birthdetroit.com
info@birthdetroit.com
3139770962

CHAG - Community Health Awareness Group
1300 W. Fort St.
Detroit, MI 48226
chagdetroit.org
info@chagdetroit.org
(313) 963-3434 ext. 108

CNS Healthcare
24230 Karim Blvd.
Suite 100, MI 48375
cnshealthcare.org

Detroit Regional LGBT Chamber of Commerce Member

CNS Healthcare is a non-profit, Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic (CCBHC) with seven clinics and two clubhouses in Southeastern Michigan. CNS employs approximately 400 professionals, paraprofessionals, and support staff, delivering services to more than 7,000 people annually.

Comfort Keepers
Erin White and Lydia White
32985 Hamilton Ct., Suite 202
Farmington, MI 48334
comfortcarepartners.com
248-957-9717

Full service, expert, loving in-home care

Communication Key Speech Language Pathology Services
Amber Bordoley, M.A. CCC-SLP
ckspeech.org
248-987-8464

Corktown Health
Patrick Yankee, Director
1726 Howard St.
Detroit, MI 48208
corktownhealth.org
info@corktownhealth.org
313-832-3300

Providing direct primary care to the LGBTQ, as well as the and Corktown community.

See our ad on this page

Hearth Home - Great Lakes Bay Health Centers
732 Hoyt Avenue
Saginaw, MI 48607
989-753-90

greatlakesbayhealthcenters.org/prep/
Hearth Home is a prevention and outreach program of Great Lakes Bay Health Centers focused on HIV education, testing, and support.
It provides free HIV testing, safer sex resources, prevention education, and linkage to care, along with services like PrEP/PEP education, counseling, and community outreach to reduce barriers and improve access to care—especially for underserved populations.

Ruth Ellis Center
95 Victor St., Highland Park, MI, 48203
ruthelliscenter.org/what-we-do/health-and-wellness-centers/
313-252-1950

HFHS - Ruth Ellis Clairmount Center for Health and Wellness
61 Clairmount Ave.
Detroit, MI 48202
ruthelliscenter.org/what-we-do/health-and-wellness-centers
313-484-5888

See our ad on next page

Hospice of Michigan
2366 Oak Valley Dr.
Ann Arbor, MI 48103
hom.org
info@hom.org
8882475701

Inman Audiology
Dr. Tiffany Inman, Au.D, CCC-A, F-AAA
1651 W. Big Beaver
Troy, MI 48084
inmanaudiology.com
InmanAudiology@gmail.com
248-839-5429

Amber Bordoley, M.A. CCC-SLP, provides speech therapy to adults and children 3 and older. She specializes in treating communication difficulties following stroke or TBI, and in providing American English accent training.

See our ad on next page

O'Connor Hearing Center
203 S. Zeeb Rd., Suite 207
Ann Arbor, MI, MI 48103
https://oconnorhearing.com
(734) 994-8300

PrecisionIR
32255 Northwestern Highway
Suite 135
Farmington Hills MI 48334
947-228-5500
kahla.grace@verashealth.com
www.myPrecisionIR.com

See our ad on page 62

Rush University Medical Center
rush.edu/affirm
8336245428

Vivent Health
viventhealth.org
1-800-359-9272

At Vivent Health, we are on a mission to end HIV/AIDS. We do this by providing integrated, personalized, judgment-free healthcare, social services, and effective prevention strategies.

See our ad on page 37

HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Allegan County Health Department
Cindy Stiles, R.N.
3255 122nd Ave., Suite 200
Allegan, MI 49010
allegancounty.org
cstiles@allegancounty.org
269-686-5424

Detroit Health Department
100 Mack Ave. - 3rd Floor
Detroit, MI 48201
detroitmi.gov/health

Genessee County Health Department Primary Care Clinic
Sandra Manssur FNP, BC
630 S. Saginaw St., Suite 4
Flint, MI 48502
gchd.us
smanssur@gchd.us
810-257-3621

Ingham County Health Department
5303 S. Cedar St.
Lansing, MI, MI 48911
hd.ingham.org
(517) 887-4311

Kalamazoo County Health & Community Services
311 E. Alcott St.
Kalamazoo, MI 49001
kalcounty.com
269-373-5200

Michigan Department of Community Health-Division of Health, Wellness, & Disease Control
109 Michigan Ave.,
Lansing, MI 48913
michigan.gov/mdch
517-241-5900

Oakland County Health Division
1200 N. Telegraph, Building 34 E.
Pontiac, MI 48341
oakgov.com/Health
800-848-5533

Oakland Livingston Human Service Agency
196 Cesar E. Chavez Ave.
Pontiac, MI 448343
olhsa.org

Ottawa County Department of Public Health
12251 James St. #400
Holland, MI 49424
miOttawa.org/SexualHealth
616-396-5266

HEATING & COOLING

AAC Services
Adam Fitzgerald
30029 John R. Rd.
Madison Hts., MI 48071
aacforyou.com
adam@aacforyou.com
248-399-9111

Comfort Plus, LC Heating & Cooling
1647 Rochester Rd.
Troy, MI 48083-1829
comfortpluslc.com
chris@comfortpluslc.com
248-280-2800

Diversified Heating & Cooling, Inc.
20789 Parker St.
Farmington Hills, MI 48336
customerservice@diversifiedhtg.com
DiversifiedHtg.com
248-473-5690

Your Preferred Plumber and HVAC Contractor in Farmington Hills. Proud to serve the LGBT community since 1957! Gay owned and operated family business since 1957. Residential/Commercial service and installation. We service all makes/models of air-conditioners, boilers, furnaces, geothermal systems, heat pumps, mini-splits and water heaters.

See our ad on page 39

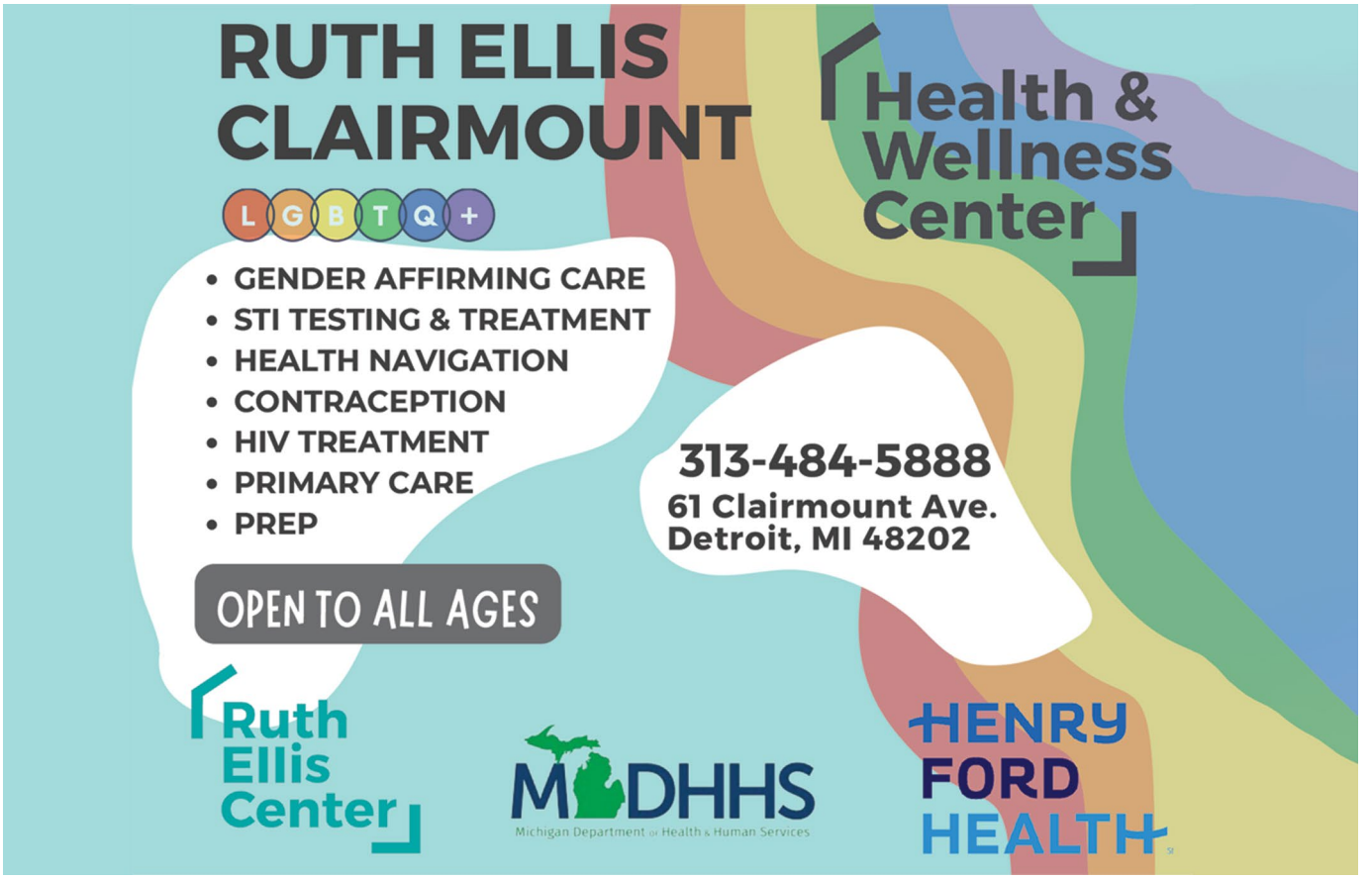
Metro Comfort
Lara Edwards
Plymouth, MI 48170
Puck1353@gmail.com
734-748-8399

Woman-owned, Fully licensed, Bonded and Insured

HOME GOODS

Baker Blinds
Shelley Raymond
794 N. Old Woodward Ave.
Birmingham, MI 48009
bakerblinds.com
shelley@bakerblinds.com
2484711111





HOME IMPROVEMENTS/ REPAIRS

Ace Handyman Services
200 W 2nd Street
Unit 548
Royal Oak, MI 48068
248-716-8111
eoc.om@acehandymanservices.com
acehandymanservices.com/offices/metro-detroit-ne
See our ad on this page

Neighborhood Roofing
1377 Tefft Court
Saline, MI 48176
734-994-6500
neighborhoodroofing.com
See our ad on page 33

HOSPITALS

Barbara Ann Karmanos Cancer Institute
4100 John R. Rd.
Detroit, 48201
karmanos.org





Corewell Health

https://corewellhealth.org

Corewell Health is Southeast Michigan's largest health care system, with over 600 locations across Southeast Michigan.

See our ad on next page

Henry Ford Health System

1 Ford Place
Detroit, MI 48202
henryford.com

HOTLINES & SWITCHBOARDS

Alcoholic Anonymous
aa-semi.org
usrecovery.info/AA/Michigan.htm
313-831-5550

RAP Line-Runaway Assistance Program
mass211.org
877-211-MASS (6277) or just dial 211

Transgender Michigan
563 W. 9 Mile Rd. #309
Hazel Park, MI 48030
transgendermichigan.org
info@transgendermichigan.org
855-345-TGMI

The Trevor Helpline
National toll-free 24 hour, 365 day-a-year confidential suicide hotline for gay & questioning teens.
thetrevorproject.org
866-488-7386

INSURANCE

Demetrike Wells O'Brien - State Farm

2739 Plymouth Road, Suite B, Ann Arbor, MI 48105
wellsobrien.com
734-995-9288

Welcome to the Demetrike Wells-O'Brien State Farm Agency! Since opening our office doors in April of 2023, we have been proudly serving the community of Ann Arbor, MI, and beyond. Our team, led by an experienced agent with over a decade in the insurance industry, is committed to providing excellent service to our customers.

See our ad on this page

Diversity Insurance Group

4604 N. Saginaw Rd., Suite O
Midland, MI 48640
http://farmersagent.com/wreames

Joan Warner

State Farm Insurance
23285 Farmington Rd.
Farmington, MI 48336
joan@warneragency.com
248-474-8020

Specializing in Auto, Home, Life, Health, Small Business and Financial Services

See our ad on next page

JANITORIAL SUPPLIES

Nelco Supply

49751 Woodward Ave.
Pontiac, MI 48342
nelcosupply.com
sales@NelcoSupply.com
248-333-2000

JAZZ CLUBS

Blue LLama Jazz Club

314 S. Main St.
Ann Arbor, MI 48104
bluellamaclub.com
734-372-3200

See our ad on page 78

JEWELERS

Abracadabra Jewelry / Gem Gallery

205 E. Liberty St., Ann Arbor, MI 48104
abragem.com
734-994-4848

See our ad on page 57

4ever2 Jewelstone Bands
201 N. Riverside Ave., Suite A-5
St. Clair, MI 48079
4ever2.com
810-289-3905

Birmingham Jewelry

34756 Dequindre Rd.
Sterling Heights, MI 48310
birminghamjewelry.com
info@birminghamjewelry.com
(586) 939-5100

Darakjian Jewelers
101 Willits St., Birmingham, 48009
darakjian.com
248-356-7140

Diamond Castle Jewelers
39955 Grand River
Novi, MI 48375
diamondcastlejewelers.com
248-442-2440

Elements Custom Jewelry Studio

512 S. Center St.
Royal Oak, MI 48067
elementsjewelrystudio.com
248-544-4111

Giorgio Conti Jewelers

22637 Woodward Ave., Ferndale, MI 48220
info@gconti.com
gconti.com
248-569-6747

Giorgio Conti Jewelers is Ferndale's trusted destination for buying and appraising fine jewelry, luxury watches, diamonds, gold, and silver. With a legacy rooted in expertise and integrity, we bring a high standard of professionalism and transparency to every evaluation, offering clients both top value and a refined, client-centered experience.

See our ad on page 13

Proud to support the neighborhood

Being a good neighbor means being there for my community. As your local State Farm® agent, I'm ready to help whenever you need me. Give me a call.

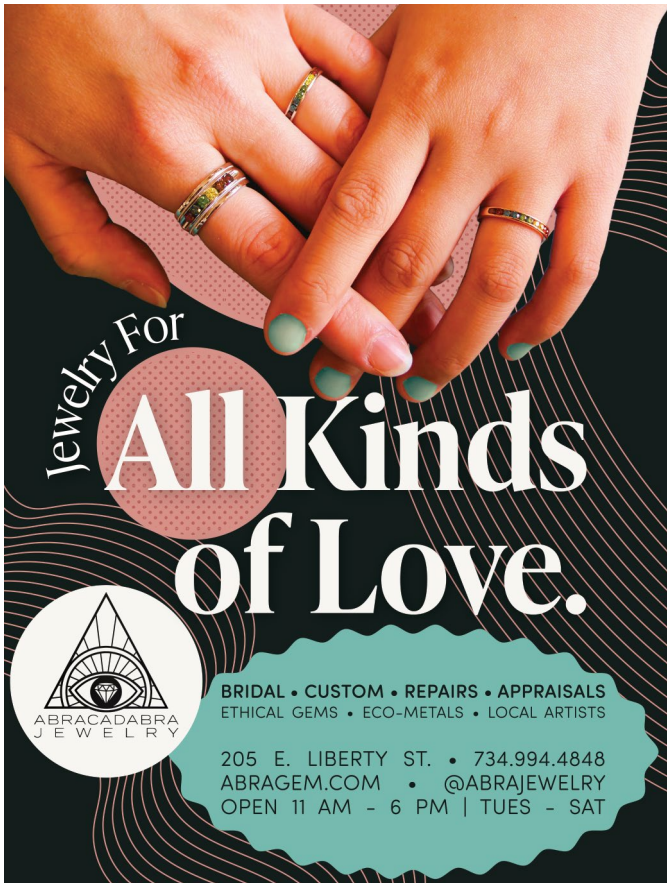
State Farm®

Joan Warner
Joan Warner, Agent
23285 Farmington Rd
Farmington, MI 48336-3101

Bus: 248-474-8020
Toll Free: 888-298-8020
joan@warneragency.com



State Farm
Bloomington, IL



All. Better.

We'll never stop pursuing better health for everyone in our communities.

corewellhealth.org

Corewell Health™

We can.®

Lewis Jewelers
300 S. Maple Rd
Ann Arbor, MI 48103
lewisa2@lewisjewelers.com
lewisjewelers.com
734-994-5111

Family-owned Ann Arbor jeweler since 1921, known for custom design and a relaxed, trusted experience.

See our ad on page 21

M. Mazzoni Jewelers
32726 Grand River Ave.
Farmington, MI 48336
mmazzonijewelers.com
248-478-3300

Orin Jewelers, Inc.
29317 Ford Rd. Garden City
1 E. Main St., Northville, MI 48167, MI 48135
orinjewelers.com
734-422-7030 or 248-349-6940

LANDSCAPING/ NURSERIES

Barson's Greenhouses
6456 Merriman Rd.
Westland, MI 48185
barsons.com
734-421-5959

Begonia Brothers
21141 Brickscape Dr.
Northville, MI 48167
begoniabrothers.com
vic.partyrental@begoniabrothers.com
888-889-8282

Four Seasons Garden Center & Custom Landscaping Services
14471 W. Eleven Mile Rd.
Oak Park, MI 48237
fourseasonsgardencenter.com

Plants & Patios, Inc.
David Clixby
1775 Porter
White Lake, MI 48383
plantsandpatios.com
dclixby@comcast.net
248-867-2164

Landscape Design & Construction

Westcroft Gardens
21803 W. River Rd.
Grosse Ile, MI 48138
westcroftgardens.com
info@westcroftgardens.com
734-676-2444

LEATHER GEAR

Noir Leather
Arbor LaClave, Owner
Ferndale, MI 48067
noirleather.com
248-541-3979

LEGAL ORGANIZATIONS

American Civil Liberties Union of Michigan
Jay Kaplan, LGBT Staff Attorney
2966 Woodward Ave.
Detroit, MI 48201
aclumich.org
kaplan@aclumich.org
313-578-6800

Neighborhood Legal Services of Michigan
7310 Woodward Ave. Suite 301
Detroit, MI 48202
nlsmichigan.org
313-964-1975

LIBRARY

Ann Arbor District Library
343 S. Fifth Ave.
Ann Arbor, MI 48104
aadl.org
734-327-4200

See our ad on this page

MANUFACTURING

The Mackinac Technology Company
4380 40th St., Suite A
Kentwood, MI 49512
https://mackinac-technology.com
amy.richards@mackinacusa.com
6165912165

MARIJUANA/ CANNABIS

Green Koi
435 Blue Star Hwy
Douglas, MI 49406
https://greenkoi.com

Nature's Remedy Cannabis
925 E. Drayton St.
Ferndale, MI 48220
https://naturesremedyma.com

On the corner of Burdette & Drayton St. in Ferndale!

See our ad on next page

Pincanna
info@pincanna.com pincanna.com
855-929-2266

MARKETING AGENCY

Marx Layne
Michael Odom
31420 Northwestern HWY
Farmington Hills, MI, 48334

Merithot Creative Marketing
Ann Arbor, MI 48104
merithot.com

AADL offers books, magazines, music, video, musical instruments, art and science tools, board games, puzzles, art prints, giant games, **and so much more!**

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Traverwood • Westgate

ANN ARBOR DISTRICT LIBRARY

Check out everything AADL has to offer at **aadl.org**!

NATURE'S REMEDY CANNABIS





Tucked away in the heart of Ferndale, Nature's Remedy Cannabis stands as the area's Hidden Gem for discerning cannabis consumers. Our shelves are thoughtfully curated with exclusive brands and premium, non-remediated products that reflect our commitment to quality and authenticity. Combined with generous weekly deals and meaningful loyalty rewards, Nature's Remedy offers an elevated retail experience where exceptional cannabis meets remarkable value. Looking into opening new locations in Pontiac and Redford - coming soon.

20% OFF ENTIRE ORDER

FIRST TIME GUESTS

FREE DELIVERY

WITH A $60+ PURCHASE AND WITHIN RADIUS

*EXCLUSIONS MAY APPLY. FREE DELIVERY FOR ALL PURCHASES $60+ OR MORE AND WITHIN 25 MILE RADIUS TO THE STORE. FIRST TIME DISCOUNT DOES NOT APPLY TO PRODUCTS ON CURRENT PROMOTIONS. DEALS CANNOT BE STACKED WITH OTHER EXSISTING DEALS. RESTRICTIONS, EXCLUSIONS AND CONDITIONS MAY APPLY. WHILE SUPPLIES LAST. PROMOTIONS SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

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SHOP-NRC.COM

925 E DRAYTON STREET, FERNDALE, MICHIGAN 48220

MASSAGE THERAPY

Deep Tissue Rehab Therapy
32780 Grand River Ave., #212a,
Farmington, MI 48336
deeptissuetherapeutic@gmail.com
deeptissuetherapeutic.abmp.com
MoonriseBeach
248-275-4001

At Deep Tissue, we focus on your pain and movement. If you are in pain you tend not to move much. If you don't move much it's usually due to pain. You'll feel the benefit of advanced techniques and years of experience when you receive a custom therapeutic massage here at Deep Tissue.

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MORTGAGES

Flagstar Bank
flagstar.com

Offering full-service banking and lending expertise. Flagstar is Michigan's largest mortgage lender, and the third largest savings bank in the country.

Myrina Mortgage Group, LLC
1012 Cedarhill Drive, Royal Oak, MI 48067
juli@myrinamortgage.com
myrinamortgage.com
248-980-3604

PNC Financial Service Group
PNC Bank
755 W. Big Beaver Rd.
Troy, MI 48084
PNC.com
1-888-762-2265

Come see us at any one of our dozens of Michigan branches.

Stratton Lending Group
Julie Siagkris-Seymour
115 S. Main St., Suite 300
Royal Oak, MI 48067
strattonlendinggroup.com
Julinoe930@gmail.com
248-817-4607

MOVING COMPANIES

Men on the Move - Moving & Storage
12400 Merriman Rd.
Livonia, MI 48150
6544 Jackson Rd.
Ann Arbor, MI 48103
michiganmovers.com
734-729-6683

Licensed and Insured Movers serving all your Local and Long Distance needs for over 35 years.

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MUNICIPALITIES/ GOVERNMENTS

City of Ann Arbor
Ann Arbor, MI, MI
a2gov.org
customerservice@a2gov.org
734.794.6000

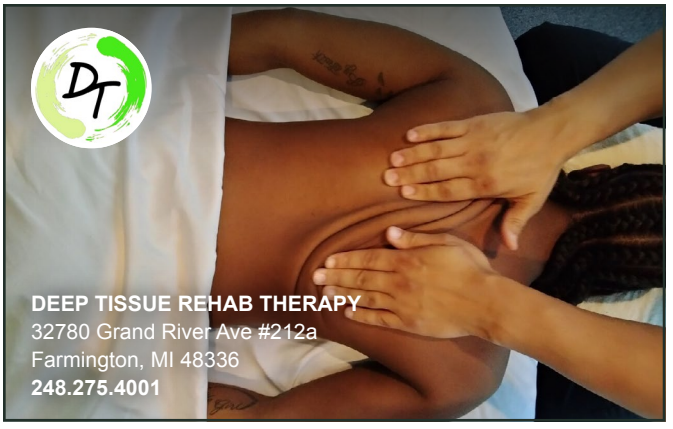
City of Ferndale
300 E. Nine Mile Rd.
Ferndale, Michigan, MI 48220
ferndalemi.gov
Information@ferndalemi.gov
248-546-2525

MUSEUMS

Detroit Institute of Arts
5200 Woodward Ave.
Detroit, MI 48202
dia.org
pmarcil@dia.org

Ford House – Edsel & Eleanor
1100 Lake Shore Rd.
Grosse Pointe Shores, MI 48236
313-884-4222
info@fordhouse.org

Experience the historic family home of Edsel Ford, the only son of Henry Ford, his wife Eleanor. The estate is located on a sprawling estate with beautiful grounds and gardens on the shore of Lake St. Clair in Grosse Pointe Shores, Michigan, north of Detroit.



Kalamazoo Institute of Arts
314 S. Park St.
Kalamazoo, MI 49007
kiarts.org

Rochester Hills Museum at Van Hoosen Farm
1005 Van Hoosen Rd.
Rochester Hills, MI 48306
rochesterhills.org/museum
248-841-2674

Saugatuck Center for the Arts
400 Culver St.
Saugatuck, MI 49453
sc4a.org
269-857-2399

Sloan Museum & Longway Planetarium
1221 E. Kearsley St.
Flint, MI 48503
sloanlongway.org
rentals@sloanlongway.org
810-237-3443

Urban Institute for Contemporary Arts
GLBT Expressive Arts Program
2 W. Fulton
Grand Rapids, MI 49503
uica.org
616-454-7000
Dance and performance. Monday evenings 5-7pm

University of Michigan Museum of Art
525 S. State St.
Ann Arbor, MI 48109
umma.umich.edu
umma.info@umich.edu
7347640395

Wrightwood 659
659 W. Wrightwood Ave., Chicago, IL 60614
info@wrightwood659.org
alphawoodgallery.org

Wrightwood 659 is a new exhibition space designed by Pritzker Prize winning architect Tadao Ando as a site for contemplative experiences of art and architecture, and as a place to engage with the pressing social issues of our time.

NATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

American Civil Liberties Union, Lesbian and Gay Project
125 Broad St.
New York, NY10004
aclu.org
212-549-2500

Family Equality Council
475 Park Ave. South, Suite 2100
New York, DC 10016
familyequality.org
617-502-8700

Gay and Lesbian Medical Association
459 Fulton St., Suite 107
San Francisco, CA 94102
glma.org

Gay & Lesbian Victory Fund
1133 15th St. NW Suite 350
Washington, DC 20005
victoryfund.org
202-842-8679

Gay, Lesbian, Straight Education Network National
90 Broad St. 2nd floor, New York, NY10004
glsen.org
212-727-0135

GLAAD
104 W. 29th St.
New York, NY 10001
glaad.org

Human Rights Campaign
1640 Rhode Island Ave. NW
Washington, DC 20036
hrc.org
hrc@hrc.org
202-216-1500

Immigration Equality
40 Exchange Place, Suite 1705
New York, NY 10005
immigrationequality.org
212-714-2904

National LGBTQ Task Force
1325 Massachusetts Ave. NW Suite 600
Washington, DC 20005
thetaskforce.org
202-393-5177

People for the American Way
1101 15th St., NW, Suite 600
Washington, DC 20005
pfaw.org
1-800-326-7329

TrueChild
Riki Wilchins Executive Director
truechild.org

OPERA COMPANY

Michigan Opera Theatre
1526 Broadway St., Detroit, MI 48226
michiganopera.org
313-237-7464

OPTOMETRISTS

20/20 Vision
3110 Walton Blvd.
Rochester Hills, MI 48309
2020vision.care
248-375-0040

Crane Optical
Dr. Howard Crane
236 W. Nine Mile Rd.
Ferndale, MI 48220
craneoptical.com
248-545-5600
Family eye care since 1949. Trusted exams, unique frames, and personalized service.

Prism Park Optical Studio - Hazel Park
23411 John R Rd. Suite 4
Hazel Park, MI 48030
HazelPark@PrismParkOptical.com
https://PrismParkOptical.com

Prism Park Optical Studio - Royal Oak
319 S. Washington Ave.
Royal Oak, MI 48067
royaloak@prismparkoptical.com
https://prismparkoptical.com
248-290-9597

PET ADOPTION

Humane Society of Huron Valley
3100 Cherry Hill Rd.
Ann Arbor, MI 48105
hshv.org
info@hshv.org
734-662-5585

Michigan Humane Society
30300 Telegraph Rd. Suite 220
Bingham Farms, MI 48025
michiganhumane.org
248-283-1000

PET BOARDING

4 Paws Community Center
2244 Franklin Rd.
Bloomfield Hills, MI 48320
4pawscc.com
248-230-7297
4pawscommunitycenter@gmail.com
4 PAWS Community Center is a luxury pet resort, daycare, grooming, and training facility that provides high quality care for dogs, cats, and the families who love them. Our professionally trained and passionate staff is committed to the safety and well-being of your pets. Our modern facility offers luxury accommodations, large indoor and outdoor play areas, and webcams for you to watch all the fun!
See our ad on this page

Club Pet Too
3181 Walnut Lake Court
Commerce Twp., MI 48390
1400 E. Commerce Rd.
Milford, MI 48381
club-pet.net
248-669-4501

Fernlee Kennels
4507 Fernlee Ave.
Royal Oak, MI 48073
fernleekennels.com
248-549-5182

Happy Hounds Dog Day Care & Lodging
673 S. Main St.
Plymouth, MI 48170
happyhoundsdaycare.com
happyhounds.mi@gmail.com
734-459-3647
Totally Cage-Free Day Care & Boarding
See our ad on this page

The Pet Authority Animal Hospital
Dr. Gloria Williams
4588 Walton Blvd.
Waterford, MI 48329
petsloved.com
thepetauthority@aol.com
248-673-3490

Wag'n Tails Pet Resort
2802 Alpha Access
Lansing, MI 48910
wagntailspetresort.net
hairytails@comcast.net
517-482-7799

PET DAY CARE

4 Paws Community Center
2244 Franklin Rd.
Bloomfield Hills, MI 48320
4pawscc.com
248-230-7297
4pawscommunitycenter@gmail.com
4 PAWS Community Center is a luxury pet resort, daycare, grooming, and training facility that provides high quality care for dogs, cats, and the families who love them. Our professionally trained and passionate staff is committed to the safety and well-being of your pets. Our modern facility offers luxury accommodations, large indoor and outdoor play areas, and webcams for you to watch all the fun!
See our ad on this page

Camp Bow Wow of Brighton
3829 S. Old US 23
Brighton, MI 48114
campbowwow.com/us/mi/brighton2
810-227-5487
Canine College
23717 Research Dr.
Farmington Hills, MI 48335
caninecollegemi.com
248-427-8245

Club Pet Too
3181 Walnut Lake Court
Commerce Twp., MI 48390
1400 E. Commerce Rd.
Milford, MI 48381
club-pet.net
lena_clubpettoo@yahoo.com
248-669-4501

Happy Hounds Dog Day Care & Lodging
673 S. Main St.
Plymouth, MI 48170
happyhoundsdaycare.com
happyhounds.mi@gmail.com
734-459-3647
See our ad on this page

PET GROOMING

4 Paws Community Center
2244 Franklin Rd.
Bloomfield Hills, MI 48320
4pawscc.com
248-230-7297
4 PAWS Community Center is a luxury pet resort, daycare, grooming, and training facility that provides high quality care for dogs, cats, and the families who love them. Our professionally trained and passionate staff is committed to the safety and well-being of your pets. Our modern facility offers luxury accommodations, large indoor and outdoor play areas, and webcams for you to watch all the fun!
See our ad on this page





Canine College
23717 Research Dr.
Farmington Hills, MI 48335
1400 E. Commerce Rd.
Milford, MI 48381
club-pet.net
lena_clubpettoo@yahoo.com
248-669-4501

Club Pet Too
3181 Walnut Lake Court
Commerce Twp., MI 48390
club-pet.net
lena_clubpettoo@yahoo.com
248-669-4501

PET SERVICES/ BOUTIQUE

Howl About It Bakery
719 Chase Lake Rd.
Howell, MI 48855
howlaboutitbakery.com
dogcookies83@yahoo.com
410-980-0005

Three Dog Bakery
550 Forest Ave. #7
Plymouth, MI 48170
threedogbakeryplymouth.com
threedog.plymouth@gmail.com
734-453-9663

PET SUPPLIES

Canine College
23717 Research Dr.
Farmington Hills, MI 48335
caninecollegemi.com
248-427-8245

Premier Pet Supply
31215 Southfield
Beverly Hills, MI 48025
premierpetsupply.com
248-647-4310

PET TRAINING/ BEHAVIOR

4 Paws Community Center
2244 Franklin Rd.
Bloomfield Hills, MI 48320
4pawscc.com
248-230-7297
4pawscommunitycenter@gmail.com

4 PAWS Community Center is a luxury pet resort, daycare, grooming, and training facility that provides high quality care for dogs, cats, and the families who love them. Our professionally trained and passionate staff is committed to the safety and well-being of your pets. Our modern facility offers luxury accommodations, large indoor and outdoor play areas, and webcams for you to watch all the fun!

See our ad on previous page



Club Pet Too
3181 Walnut Lake Court
Commerce Twp., MI 48390
1400 E. Commerce Rd.
Milford, MI 48381
club-pet.net
248-669-4501

Fido Personal Dog Training, LLC
23440 Woodward Ave.
Ferndale, MI 48220
fidodogtraining.com
fidofetch@sbcglobal.net
313-204-6154

PHARMACY

Crown Pharmacy
Specialists in HIV and Cancer Drugs
24401 Plymouth Rd.
Redford, MI 48239
crownpharmacy.com
crownpharmacy1@aol.com
313-532-3784

The little pharmacy with a big heart!
See our ad on page 9

PHOTOGRAPHY

It Clicks Photo LLC
erika@itclicksphoto.com
itclicksphoto.com
586-615-8697

That Gay Photographer
hello@thatgayphotographer.com
thatgayphotographer.com
586-651-5095

Weddings by Dain
Dain Evans
Ann Arbor, MI 48103
dainevans.com
weddings@dainevans.com
2487631214

PHYSICIANS

Corktown Health
Patrick Yankee, Director
1726 Howard St., Detroit, MI 48208
corktownhealth.org
info@corktownhealth.org
313-832-3300

Providing direct primary care to the LGBTQ+ and Corktown community.

See our ad on page 36

Dr. Michael N. Henein MD FACS
Kathleen Henein NP-C
75 Barclay Circle #118
Rocester Hills, MI 48307
248-312-9300

Be Well Medical
Dr. Paul Benson, D.O.
1964 W. 11th Mile Road, Berkley, MI 48072
drpaulbenson@doctorbewell.com
doctorbewell.com
248-544-9300

See our ad on pages 2 and 3

PHYSICIANS/ GYNECOLOGY & OBSTETRICS

Michigan Reproductive Medicine
Michael S. Mersol-Barg, MD
41000 Woodward Ave., Suite 100 E.
Bloomfield Hills, MI 48034
MIReproductiveMedicine.com
info@mireproductivemedicine.com
248-593-6990

PrecisionIR
32255 Northwestern Highway
Suite 135
Farmington Hills MI 48334
947-228-5500
MyPrecisionIR@gmail.com
www.myPrecisionIR.com

PrecisionIR is an outpatient practice offering minimally invasive treatment for hemorrhoids and fibroids.

See our ad on this page

PLUMBING

Metro Comfort
Lara Edwards
Plymouth, MI 48170
Puck1353@gmail.com
734-748-8399

Waterwork Plumbing
Ferndale, Mi
734-593-1773
waterworkplumbing.com

Residential and Commercial Service
24/7 Emergency Services Available

See our ad on next page

POLITICAL ORGANIZATIONS

Equality Michigan
P.O. Box 19847, Kalamazoo, MI 49019
communications@equalitymi.org
equalitymi.org
communications@equalitymi.org
1-866-962-1147 victim hotline, 313-537-7000 office

Equality Research Center
124 Quirk, E.ern Michigan University
Ypsilanti, MI 48197
emich.edu/equality
equality_humanrights@emich.edu
734-487-3032

Fair and Equal Michigan
P.O. Box 10030, Lansing, MI 48901
fairandequalmichigan.com

Gay & Lesbian Victory Fund
1133 15th St. NW Suite 350
Washington, Washington 20005
victoryfund.org
victory1@victoryfund.org
202-842-8679

LGBTQ & Allies Caucus of the Michigan Democratic Party
facebook.comTheLGBTACaucusoftheMDP

Progress Michigan
614 Seymour
Lansing, MI 48933
progressmichigan.org
517-993-3646



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Motor City Pride works toward our vision of a society characterized by a strong commitment to universal civil rights as well as safe communities, workplaces and schools.

Motor City Pride; Michigan's largest Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Festival draws almost 60,000 attendees from throughout the region, including Ohio, Indiana and Illinois and our neighbors from Ontario, Canada. Highlights of the festival include a parade, rally, family fun area, youth activities, five stages of entertainment and over 120 non-profit, sponsor, food and sales booths.

The festival is designed for an open-ended appeal for our diverse community. There is something truly energizing, exciting and empowering about holding **Motor City Pride** at such a prominent location as Hart Plaza because it solidifies the notion of LGBT people as contributing members of our larger community. It also demonstrates the strength, vitality and unity of our community within the collective fabric of Southeastern Michigan.



POTTERY

Pewabic Pottery
10125 E. Jefferson
Detroit, MI 48214
pewabic.org
See our ad on page 3

PRIDE & EVENT ORGANIZERS

Battle Creek Pride
145 Capital Ave. NE
Battle Creek, MI 49016
battlecreekpride.org
deanaspencer@battlecreekpride.org
269-245-1440

Battle Creek Pride is a safe and inclusive space dedicated to advocating for the rights and well-being of 2SLGBTQ+ individuals, as well as all marginalized communities. We are committed to fostering a supportive environment where people of all identities can thrive.

We offer a variety of programs, including support groups, educational workshops, and a comprehensive resource center designed to meet the diverse needs of our community. Whether you're seeking emotional support, guidance on navigating systems, or tools for advocacy, we are here for you. Our programming is designed to build solidarity, foster understanding, and create opportunities for learning and growth.Join us in creating a stronger, more compassionate community where diversity is not just accepted, but embraced.

See our ad on page 33

Grand Rapids Pride Center
345 Atlas Ave. SE
Grand Rapids, MI 49506
grlgbt.org
616-458-3511

Great Lakes Bay Pride Festival
Produced by Perceptions
P.O. Box 1525
Midland, MI 48641
greatlakesbaypride.orgInfo@PerceptionsMI.org
989-891-1429

Ferndale Pride
Julia Music, Event Chair
430 E. Saratoga., Suite B
Ferndale, MI 48220
ferndalepride.com
julia@ferndalepride.com

Geared For Life
gearedforlife.us/about-us
ANDREWK.GFL@gmail.com

Holland Pride
451 Columbia Ave.
Holland, MI 49423
hollandpride.org

Jackson Pride Center
536 N. Jackson St.
Jackson, MI 49201
info@jacksonpridecenter.org
734-627-7570

Lansing Pride
502 E. César E. Chávez Ave.
Suite 115
Lansing, MI 48906
lansingpride.org
hello@lansingpride.org

LGBT Detroit
The Center in Detroit
20025 Greenfield
Detroit, MI 48235
lgbtdetroit.org
detroit@lgbtdetroit.org
313-397-2127
See our ad on page 75

Motor City Pride
440 Burroughs St., Suite 527
Detroit, MI 48202
motorcitypride.org
info@motorcitypride.org

OutCenter
132 Water St.
Benton Harbor, MI 49022
outcenter.org
269-925-8330

OutFront
340 S. Rose St., Kalamazoo, MI 49007
outfrontkzoo.org
269-349-4234

Traverse City Pride - UPNorth Pride
Traverse City, MI
upnorthpride.com
upnorthpride@gmail.com

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Suits And The City
Lansing, MI
suitsandthecity.org

Ties Like Me
tieslikeme.org
tieslikeme@gmail.com

PUBLICATIONS

Elsie Publishing
Lesbian Connection
What Helen Heard
P.O. Box 811, East Lansing, MI 48226
lconline.org
LC@LConline.org
517-371-5257

Pride Source Media/ Between The Lines
pridesource.com
sales@pridesource.com
734-263-1476

REAL ESTATE/AGENT

Anchor Real Estate of Michigan
1445 Fairholme Rd,
Grosse Pointe Woods, MI, 48236
https://www.facebook.com/anchorrealestateofmichigan/
maria.anchorrealestate@gmail.com
586-601-5676

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Buyer's & Listing Agent
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Email: LLStange@aol.com

Century 21 - Bill Underdown and Clem Beaudoin
62 Center St.
Douglas, MI 49406
saugatuckrealty.com
billunderdown@gmail.com
3138242000

Don Chisholm
Real Estate One
26236 Woodward Ave.
Royal Oak, MI 48067
donchisholmrealtor.com
dchisholm@realestateone.com
248-425-4366
See our ad on previous page

Brian Stone, Realtor
Re/Max Leading Edge
25050 Ford Rd.
Dearborn, MI 48127
brian.stone@remax.ne
brianstone.remax-detroit.com
(313) 618-2892

Expert Realty Solutions
901 Tower Dr. #310,
Troy, MI 48098
800-979-3591
https://expertrealtysolutions.com

Lynn Stange
Real Estate One
70 W. Long Lake Rd., Troy, MI 48098
lynnstange.realestateone.com
LLStange@aol.com
248-561-6967
See our ad on previous page

Real Estate One
Ralph Catana
21250 Hall Rd.
Clinton Twp., MI 48038
realestateone.com/ralph
Ralphcatana@yahoo.com
586-783-7888

Realty Executives Home Towne
Ashley Karpinsky
49433 Hayes
Shelby Twp, MI 48315
ashley.rehometowne.com
ashley.karpinsky@gmail.com
810-955-2242

Trillium Real Estate
944 N. Main St., Ann Arbor, MI 48104
trilliumrealtors.com
734-302-3011
See our ad on this page

REIKI

Reiki Euphoria
414 S. Main St. Suite 205
Rochester, MI 48307
reikieuphoria.com

RELIGIOUS & SPIRITUAL

Chelsea First United Methodist Church
128 Park St., Chelsea, MI 48118
media@chelseaumc.org
chelseaumc.org
734-475-8119

Chelsea First United Methodist Church (Chelsea First) is a Christ-centered congregation with a positive, open, and engaging spirit. We believe God's family has room for ALL people, and invite members of our community to embark on their own journeys as disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. We are a church for everyone, at all seasons of life. Chelsea First brings a grounded, engaged, and supportive approach to Christian worship while working passionately toward making a positive impact in our community. We're glad you're here!

Christ Church Cranbrook
470 Church Rd.
Bloomfield Hills, MI 48304
christchurchcranbrook.org
248-644-5210
See our ad on the back cover

Christ Church Detroit
960 E. Jefferson Ave.,
Detroit, MI 48207
https://christcd.org
313-259-6688

Dearborn First United Methodist Church
22124 Garrison St., Dearborn, MI 48124
office@dearbornfirstumc.org
dearbornfirstumc.org
313-563-5200

Whether you're black, white, gay, straight, baptized, unbaptized, if you know all about Jesus, or are still learning and questioning or if you're somewhere in between all of these things - you are welcome here at Dearborn First United Methodist Church.

Dignity Detroit
P.O. Box 558, Royal Oak, MI 48068
dignitydetroit78@yahoo.com
dignitydetroit.org
313-278-4786

Spiritually, Equality, and Justice in a welcoming Catholic community. Dignity Detroit worships in conjunction with the IHM Sisters Peace and Justice mass with Dignity Liturgy on the first (1st) and third (3rd) Sunday of every month at 4:00pm in the Sacred Heart Chapel, Marygrove Campus.

See our ad on page 68

Episcopal Church of the Incarnation
3257 Lohr Rd.
Ann Arbor, MI 48108
incarnationannarbor.org
admin@incarnationannarbor.org
7347697900

Ferndale First United Methodist Church
22331 Woodward Ave., Ferndale, MI 48220
ferndalefirstumc@ameritech.net
ferndalefirst.org
248-545-4467

First Congregational Church of Ann Arbor
608 E. William St.
Ann Arbor, MI 48104
fccannarbor.org
office@fccannarbor.org
734-662-1679

First Presbyterian Church Ann Arbor
1432 Washtenaw Ave.
Ann Arbor, MI 48104
firstpresbyterian.org
mrogers@firstpresbyterian.org

First United Methodist Church of Ann Arbor
120 S. State St., Ann Arbor, MI 48104
info@fumc-a2.org
fumc-a2.org
734-662-4536

Know God. Love Unconditionally. Affirm All. We are one church with two locations—both striving toward energetic, engaging worship that provides opportunities for encountering God.

Grand Rapids First United Methodist Church
227 Fulton St. E., Grand Rapids, MI 49503
info@grfumc.org
grfumc.org
616-451-2879

Lord of Light Lutheran Church/ Lutheran Campus Ministry for UofM
801 S. Forest, Ann Arbor, MI 48104
lordoflight.org
lol-lcm@comcast.net
734-668-7622

Metropolitan Community Church of Detroit
290 W. Nine Mile Rd.
Ferndale, MI 48220
mccdetroit.org
248-399-7741

MCC of Flint
2474 S. Ballenger Highway
Flint, MI 48507

Newburg United



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Check out these United Methodist churches near you!

First United Methodist Church of Ann Arbor
fumc-2a.org

Bangor - Simpson United Methodist Church
facebook.com/BangorSimpsonUMC

Chelsea First United Methodist Church
chelseaumc.org

Dearborn First United Methodist Church
dearbornfirstumc.org

Detroit - Central United Methodist Church
centralumchurchdetroit.org

Ferndale First United Methodist Church
ferndalefirstumc.org

Grand Rapids First United Methodist Church
grfumc.org

Lansing - University United Methodist Church
uumc.church

Livonia - Newburg United Methodist Church
newburgumc.org

Portage - Chapel Hill United Methodist Church
portagechapelhill.org

Royal Oak First United Methodist Church
rofum.org

Williamston United Methodist Church
williamstonumc.org

Methodist Church
36500 Ann Arbor Trail, Livonia, MI 48150
info@newburgumc.org
newburgumc.org
734-422-0149

Portage Chapel Hill Church
7028 Oakland Drive, Portage, MI 49024
office@portagechapelhill.org
portagechapelhill.org
269-327-6643

Simpson United Methodist Church
507 Joy St., Bangor, MI 49013
simpsonumcbangor@gmail.com
facebook.com/BangorSimpsonUMC
269-427-7725

St. Aidan's Episcopal Church
The Rev. Dr. Susan E. McGarry
1679 Broadway St.
Ann Arbor, MI 48105
staidan.org
nam.ministries@sbcglobal.net
734-663-5503

Unity Church of Ann Arbor
4599 Carpenter Rd. Ann Arbor, MI 48197
unitya2.com
admin@unitya2.org
734-434-8545

Unity Church of Royal Oak
2500 Crooks Rd., Royal Oak, MI 48073
unityroyaloak.org
info@unityofroyaloak.com
2482883550

University United Methodist Church
112 S. Harrison Road, East Lansing, MI 48823
office@eluumc.org
uumc.church
517-351-7030

Whosoever Ministry United Church of Christ
240 Chalfonte Ave.,
Grosse Pointe Farms, MI 48236
WhosoeverMinistry.org
313-259-0000

Williamston United Methodist Church
211 S. Putnam St., Williamston, MI 48895
WUMCAdmin@Williamstonumc.org
williamstonumc.org/home
517-230-1637

REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH

Birth Detroit
16919 Prairie St.
Detroit, MI 48221
birthdetroit.com
info@birthdetroit.com
3139770962

Partridge Creek
19991 Hall Rd., Suite 105
Macomb Township, MI 48044-3904
partridgecreekobgyn.com
586-247-8609

RESTAURANTS

Beans & Cornbread
29508 Northwestern Highway,
Southfield, MI 48034
beanscornbread.com
248-208-1680

Blue LLama Jazz Club
314 S. Main St., Ann Arbor, MI 48104
bluellamaclub.com
734-372-3200
See our ad on page 78

SENIOR LIVING

Allegria Village
15181 Ford Rd., Dearborn, MI 48126
henryfordvillage.com
877-796-3458

Erickson Senior Living
hostmaster@erickson.com
ericksonseniorliving.com
800-917-8189
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See our ad on next page

MiGen
migenconnect.org
313-241-8994

Raymond E. Shepherd House
RAYMONDESHEPHERD@
KMGPRESTIGE.Com
fccommunities.org/rsh

SENIOR SERVICES

The Senior Alliance
3200 Greenfield Road
Suite 100
Dearborn, MI 48120
734-722-2830
www.thesenioralliance.org
asears@thesenioralliance.org
The Senior Alliance is a non-profit 501c3 organization serving as an Area Agency on Aging. The Senior Alliance connects older adults, adults with disabilities, and caregivers with resources and services needed to allow them to thrive. The Senior Alliance provides access to a wide range of programs including Meals-on-Wheels, transportation, adult day care, in-home care, and much more. The Senior Alliance also acts as an agent of the MI Choice Medicaid Waiver Program, arranging services for qualified older adults and adults living with disabilities so they may remain living in their own home. All programs and services offered by The Senior Alliance are provided at no cost.
See our ad on next page

SOCIAL/COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS

Al Gamea
P.O. Box 471, Hazel Park, MI 48030
algamea.org

Detroit Latin@z
facebook.com/detroitlatinaz
734-474-2372

Dykes on Bikes
dykesonbikesdetroit.com
Heather@Dykesonbikesdetroit.com

Freedom House Detroit
freedomhousedetroit.org
313-964-4320

Lambda Car Club
lccdetroit.org
248-321-5025

Lansing Association for Human Rights (LAHR)
P.O. Box 14009, E. Lansing, MI 48901-4009
lahronline.org

LGBT Detroit
20025 Greenfield
Detroit, MI 48235
lgbtdetroit.org
detroit@lgbtdetroit.org
313-397-2127
See our ad on page 75

Michiana Dunes Region Lambda Car Club International
Kalamazoo, MI
lambdacarclub.com
734-649-5295

SPORTS

IGBO (International Gay Bowling Organization)
igbo.org/about/default.cfm
nah-region@igbo.org

Metro Detroit Softball League
mdsl.org
586-945-4029

Michigan Panthers Football Club
Livonia, MI
michiganpanthers.org
info@michiganpanthers.org

Stonewall Sports
https://stonewallsports.org/
Stonewall Sports is a community-based, nonprofit sports organization for LGBTQIA+ people and their allies.
See our ad on page 71

STUDENT AND ALUMNI GROUPS

Alma College Gender & Sexuality Diversity
614 W. Superior St.
Alma, MI 48801
alma.edu/student-life/what-can-i-do-on-campus/diversity-focused.php
lambrechtak@alma.edu

Eastern Michigan University, LGBT Resource Center
354 EMU Student Center
Ypsilanti, MI 48197
emich.edu/lgbtrc
734-487-4149

Grand Valley State University GLBT Resources
1161 Kirkoff Center
Allendale, MI 49401
gvsu.edu/lgbtrc
lgbtcenter@gvsu.edu
616-331-2530

Lawrence Technological University LGBT Resource Center
21000 W. 10 Mile Rd., A. Alfred Taubman Student Services Center, C404
Southfield, MI 48075
LTU.edu/student_affairs/lgbt.asp
248-204-3142

Michigan State University Alliance of Lesbian-Bi-Gay & Transgendered Students
441 Student Union
East Lansing, MI 48824-1020
lbgtrc.msu.edu
517-353-9520

Michigan State University LGBT Resource Center
302 Student Services Building
East Lansing, MI 48824-1113
Lbgtrc.msu.edu
517-353-9520





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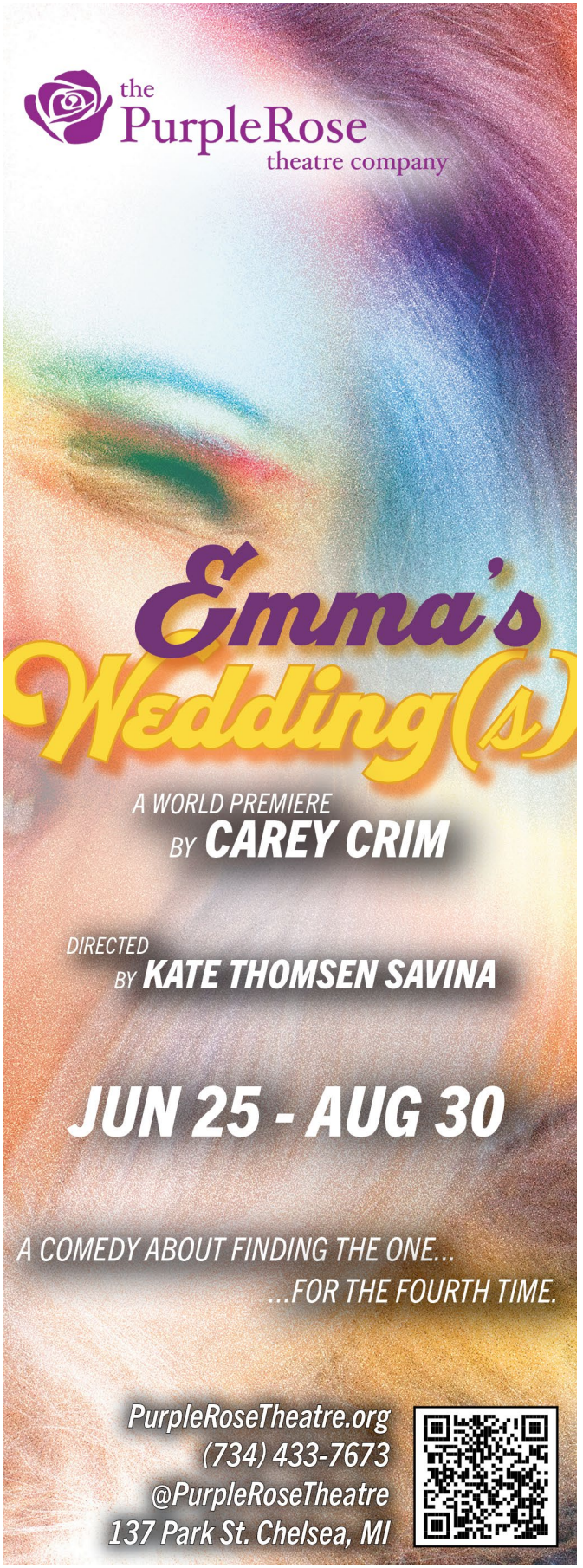
Contact us to find services that are right for **you**.

734-727-2067

www.thesenioralliance.org

Statewide MI Options hotline: 1-800-803-7174
This project has been made possible through a grant awarded to The Senior Alliance by the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services.

The Senior Alliance serves 34 communities in southern and western Wayne County.



University of Michigan - Division of Student Affairs
3200 Michigan Union - 530 S. State St.
Ann Arbor, MI 48109-1308
spectrumcenter.umich.edu
734-763-4186

University of Michigan - Flint Ellen Bommarito LGBT Center
213 University Center 303 E. Kearsley St.
Flint, MI 48502-1950
Umflint.edu/lgbt
dept.lgbt-center@umflint.edu
810-766-6606

SUBSTANCE ABUSE

Al-Anon Office of Metro Detroit
26150 Five Mile Rd., Redford, MI 48239
al-anon-semi.org
313-242-0300

Alcoholic Anonymous
aa-semi.org
usrecovery.info/AA/Michigan.htm
313-831-5550

Mariners Inn
445 Ledyard St.
Detroit, MI 48201
marinersinn.org
mgrusche@aol.com
313-962-9446

Sacred Heart Rehabilitation Center
1106 S. Washington
Bay City, MI 48708
sacredheartcenter.com
810-392-2167

Together We Can
P.O. Box 247
Royal Oak, MI 48068
twcdetroit.com
twc@twcdetroit.com
248-838-9905

SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra
220 E. Huron, Suite 470
Ann Arbor, MI 48104
a2so.com
info@a2so.com
734-994-4801

Detroit Symphony Orchestra
Max M. & Marjorie S. Fisher Music Center
3711 Woodward Ave., Detroit, MI 48201
dso.org

Fenton Community Orchestra
14176 N. Leroy St., Fenton, MI 48430
fentoncommunityorchestra@gmail.com
fentonorchestra.org/home.html#
810-390-5020

Flint Institute of Music
1025 E. Kearsley St., Flint, MI 48503
thefim.org
810-238-1350

Lansing Symphony Orchestra
104 S. Washington Square, Suite 300
Lansing, MI 48933
LansingSymphony.org

Michigan Philharmonic
650 Church St., Plymouth, MI 48170
michiganphil.org
734-451-2112

TATTOO

Splash of Color Tattoo & Piercing
515 E. Grand River Ave.
East Lansing, MI 48823
https://splashtattoos.com
(517) 333-0990

Stray Dogs Tattoo Studio
5854 North Wayne Rd.,
Westland, MI, 48185
straydogstattoostudio.com
straydogstattoostudio@gmail.com
734-260-2968
Queer and trans owned tattoo studio featuring a friendly and welcoming host of artists with a wide variety of tattoo styles and specializations.

TATTOO REMOVAL

Lansing Laser Tattoo Removal
515 E. Grand River
East Lansing, MI 48823
lansinglaser.com
lansinglaser@gmail.com
517-881-6880

TAX PLANNING/ PREPARATION

M.S. Phelps, CPA, PLLC
Melinda Phelps
1420 Washington Blvd.
Detroit, MI 48226-1718
http://msphelpscpa.com

Wellbridge Consulting
Audrey Wojtkowiak
290 W. Nine Mile Rd.
Ferndale, MI 48220
wellbridgeconsulting.com
audrey@wellbridgeconsulting.com
734-417-5771

THEATERS

313 Presents
2525 Woodward Ave.
Detroit, MI 48201
313Presents.com

Ann Arbor Civic Theatre
322 W. Ann St., Ann Arbor, MI 48104
a2ct.org
manager@a2ct.org
734-971-2228

Broadway In Detroit
Fisher Theater
3011 W. Grand Blvd.
Detroit, MI 48202
broadwayindetroit.com
contact@broadwayindetroit.com
800-982-2787

Cabaret 313
24901 Northwestern Hwy. Suite 312
Southfield, MI
cabaret313.org
313-405-5061

Detroit Repertory Theatre
13103 Woodrow Wilson Dr.
Detroit, MI 48238
detroitreptheatre.com
313-868-1347

Fisher Theatre
3011 W. Grand Blvd., Detroit, MI 48202
broadwayindetroit.com
contact@broadwayindetroit.com
313-872-1000

Flint Institute of Music
1025 E. Kearsley St., Flint, MI 48503
thefim.org
810-238-1350

Fox Theatre
2211 Woodward Ave.
Detroit, MI 48201
313presents.com/fox-theatre
313-471-3200

Jewish Ensemble Theatre
1124 W. Maple Rd.
Walled Lake, MI 48390
jettheatre.org
248-788-2900

Macomb Center for Performing Arts
44575 Garfield Rd.
Clinton Twp., MI 4838-1139
macombcenter.com
(586) 226-4737

Michigan Opera Theatre
1526 Broadway St., Detroit, MI 48226
michiganopera.org
313-237-7464

Michigan Theater
603 E. Liberty, Ann Arbor, MI 48104
michtheater.org
734-668-8397

Midland Center for the Arts
1801 W. Saint Andrews Rd.
Midland, MI 48640
midlandcenter.org
989-631-5930

Plowshares Theatre
440 Burroughs St.
Suite 525
Detroit, MI 48202
plowsharestheatre.org
info@plowsharestheatre.org
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royaloakmusictheatre.com
justin@royaloakmusictheater.com
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Saugatuck Center for the Arts
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Saugatuck, MI 49453
sc4a.org
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Ferndale, MI 48220
slipstreamti.com
slipstreamti@slipstreamti.com
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The Fillmore Detroit
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313-961-5451

Tipping Point Theatre
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Northville, MI 48167
tippingpointtheatre.com
248-347-0003

University Musical Society
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ums.org
734-764-2538

Wayne State University Maggie Allesee Dept. of Theatre & Dance
4841 Cass Ave. Suite 3226
Detroit, MI 48202
theatreanddance.wayne.edu
313-577-3511

Wharton Center for Performing Arts
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standwithtrans.org
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Trans Unity Coalition
unity@transunitycoalition.org
transunitycoalition.org
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frontdeskgreenfield@gmail.com
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info@annarbor.org
734-995-7281
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Keweenaw Convention & Visitors Bureau
56638 Calumet Ave., Calumet, MI, MI 49913
keweenaw.info
800-338-7982

Saugatuck-Douglas Area Convention & Visitors Bureau
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https://saugatuck.com
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313-884-4222
info@fordhouse.org

Harmonie Club

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313-701-3084

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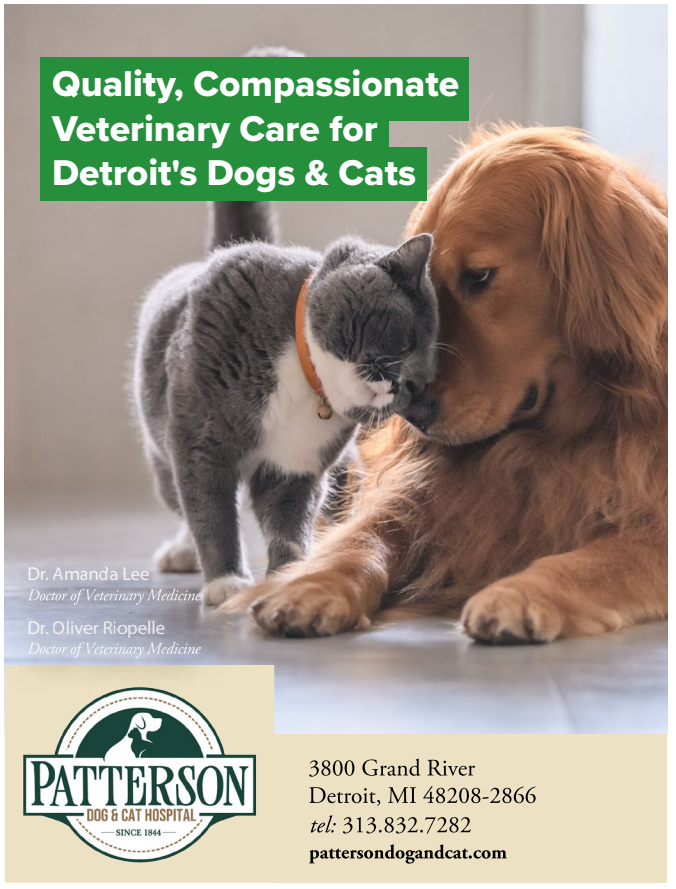
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rochesterhills.org/museum
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safehousecenter.org
734-995-5444

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commongroundhelps.org
248-456-8150

Horizons Project - Wayne State University School of Medicine
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Ozone House LGBTQ Youth & Family Services
102 N. Hamilton St., Ypsilanti, MI 48197
ozonehouse.org
734-662-2222

Ruth Ellis Center
95 Victor St.,Highland Park, MI 48203
ruthelliscenter.org
info@ruthelliscenter.org
313-252-1950

Ruth Ellis Center works to create a supportive environment and community for LGBTQ+ young people.

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