



[www.lansing.org](http://www.lansing.org)

School Project Information Packet

# DISCOVER Greater Lansing!



500 E. Michigan Ave., Suite 180, Lansing, Michigan 48912



says...  
Thank You!

Thank You for contacting the Greater Lansing Convention and Visitors Bureau!

In this packet you will find the information you requested regarding the Greater Lansing Area.

You can check out our website at: [www.lansing.org](http://www.lansing.org)

However, if you find you need additional information regarding Lansing or the state of Michigan, please check the following internet websites:

[www.cityoflansingmi.com](http://www.cityoflansingmi.com) (City of Lansing website)

[www.michigan.org](http://www.michigan.org) (Travel Michigan)

[www.50states.com](http://www.50states.com) (Click on Michigan)

[www.michigan.gov/gov](http://www.michigan.gov/gov) (Governor Jennifer Granholm's Page)

[www.michigan.gov](http://www.michigan.gov) (Michigan government website)

# *From Humble Beginnings*

Long before any permanent settlers set foot in what has become known as Lansing, the Indians relied on the land along the State's longest river, the Grand, to provide for their families. Mid-Michigan, at that time was a part of the Northwest Territory, an unsettled land of dense forests and abundant wildlife.

Although the first attempt at founding a town took place in 1836, it wasn't until the spring of 1847 that things started to take shape...more by default than design. When Michigan became a state in 1837, its constitution required that a permanent capitol site be chosen. The state legislature had decided to move the Capital from Detroit, which was so near the border that they felt it was vulnerable to invasions by British forces from Canada. It was also feared that as Michigan's largest city, Detroit might exercise more of its share of influence in state manners. It was determined that the best location for the new capital would be in the interior of the state where residents would be more encouraged to settle. Unable to agree on a choice, the legislature chose Lansing Township, which at the time consisted of eight registered voters, a log cabin and a sawmill. The entire town was literally built in just a few months, including a frame capitol building. Soon after, it was renamed Lansing, after John Lansing, a New York patriot and one of the official delegates to the Constitutional Convention.

Once it was platted, the town soon began to grow. By the time the city was incorporated in 1859, there were already several thousand residents and a new brick capitol building.

The early years brought enormous growth to Lansing. The Michigan Agriculture College in East Lansing and Michigan Female College opened, later to be consolidated into one institution (Michigan State University), along with a new high school and the historic plank road to Howell. The Agricultural College, which was established in 1855, has become the oldest center for teaching scientific agriculture and the first land grant college in the nation.

Already reaching milestones, Lansing continued to make a name for itself. The current Michigan State Capitol Building was designed by Elijah Myers and dedicated on January 1, 1879. It was the first state capitol modeled after the national capitol building. Completely renovated in 1992, it is the only state capitol building designated as a national historic landmark.

In the 1870's, Lansing also began to develop as a manufacturing center. Michigan's auto industry can be traced to 1887, when one of Lansing's most famous residents, Ransom Eli Olds, built a three-wheeled vehicle with one-horsepower steam engine. He tested the "horseless carriage" before sunrise in order to avoid the embarrassment of being laughed at. The rest as they say, is history. In 1897, "that darn Olds kid" founded the Olds Motor vehicle company. The first Oldsmobile ever built that year is currently housed in the R. E. Olds Transportation Museum in downtown Lansing.

With a booming automotive industry, an expanding government seat and a strong educational system, Lansing continued to develop, encouraged by the continually increasing residential and business growth. Even during World War II, Lansing continued to make its mark by channeling its industrial capabilities to assist with wartime productions.

Although the city's core continued to develop, population growth in the areas surrounding Lansing during the 1950's soon changed the face of the city. Over the next several decades, housing quickly expanded into the suburbs and the countryside, and today's Greater Lansing began to take shape. Even now, as we begin a new century, the roots are still growing strong in Greater Lansing.

Although its economy is more diversified, government, education and automotive industry continue to play an integral part in the area. Lansing remains a region of many cultures and interests where everyone is welcome. Past, present, and future-Greater Lansing honors its humble beginnings with small-town charm blended with big-city sophistication where culture and creativity come together!

# Lansing FUN FACTS

- During the 1830's Lansing was known as Biddle City.
- Jacob Frederick Cooley, Lansing Township's first permanent resident, settled here in 1837.
- Joseph North challenged Jacob Cooley's claim as the first resident.
- Lansing was named after New York patriot John Lansing.
- The township was officially created in February, 1847.
- Lansing became the second state capital of Michigan because the first capital, Detroit, was too close to the border and vulnerable to an invasion by British forces of Canada.
- There were eight registered voters when Lansing became the state capital.
- A sawmill was the one industry present in Lansing when it became the state capital.
- The top three area employers in Lansing are General Motors Corporation, State of Michigan, and Michigan State University.
- The Grand River runs through downtown Lansing and is Michigan's longest river.
- Ransom Eli Olds (R.E. Olds) founded the Oldsmobile, later a division of General Motors in 1897.
- Lansing is located in Ingham County and is the only capital in the United States not located in the county seat.
- The county seat of Ingham County is Mason, Michigan.
- Ingham County was named after Samuel D. Ingham, the Secretary of Treasury under President Andrew Jackson.

# Cont... FUN FACTS

- Michigan State University is the only university in the nation to have three medical colleges. They are Human Medicine, Osteopathic Medicine and Veterinary Medicine.
- Michigan State University was established in 1855, dedicated in 1857 and is the oldest center for the teaching of scientific agriculture in the nation.
- Michigan State University Museum was organized in the 1860's and is one of the earliest museums on a university campus in the Midwest. This is the oldest museum located in the Lansing area.
- Lansing's first school opened in 1847.
- The Michigan State Capitol Building was modeled after the nation's capitol building in Washington D.C.
- Elijah Myers designed the Michigan State Capitol Building and it was dedicated on January 1, 1879.

# Did You Know?

It is possible to split a boulder in two using a **cherry pit**?

- A well-known Lansing landmark was “half-way rock,” sometimes known as “split rock.” Located on Michigan Avenue it marked the approximate half way point between MSU (then Michigan State College) and the Capitol.
- College students making the three mile trek to downtown Lansing looked for the half-way rock. One passer-by placed a cherry pit in a small crack in the rock. Over time, a tree sprouted, grew and eventually split the rock in two.
- The rock and the tree were removed in 1925 for the purpose of widening the road. One half of the rock now stands as a marker just southwest of the MSU Union building.



**The Grand River** is the longest river in Michigan. It flows 260 miles before reaching Lake Michigan.

- Most of the river is consistently flat with many swamps and lakes.
- The Grand River was a very important navigational route through the Lower Peninsula of Michigan. It was used by Native Americans, and settlers for many centuries.
- The river was called O-wash-ta-nong, meaning “Far- away-water” because of its length.

Different fish found in the Grand River:

Atlantic Salmon	Menominee
Brook Trout	Muskellunge
Brown Bullhead	Northern Pike
Brown Trout	Pink Salmon
Channel Catfish	Rock Bass
Chinook Salmon	Smallmouth Bass
Coho Salmon	Smelt
Lake Herring	Steelhead
Lake Trout	Walleye
Lake Whitefish	White Bass
Largemouth Bass	White Sucker



# Did You Know?

Reward money for the capture of **John Wilkes Booth** was spent in Lansing ?



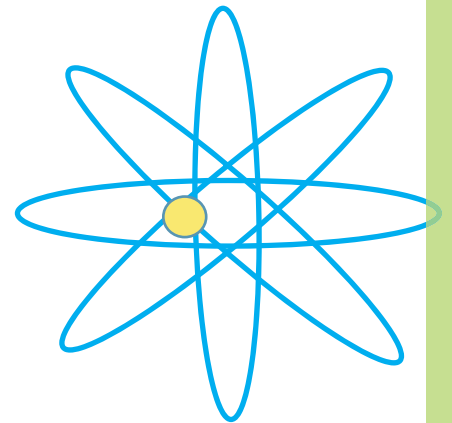
- General Baker received \$20,000 and his cousin, Lieutenant Baker, \$5,000 for the capture of John Wilkes Booth, who shot and killed president Lincoln in 1865.
- They resigned from the service and came to Lansing to build a first-class hotel.
- The Lansing House, erected in 1866, was torn down in 1937.
- The J.W. Knapp Co., erected a department store on the site, at the corner of Washtenaw and Washington.

## Lansing failed as “**Biddle City**”

- “Biddle City” named after Maj. John Biddle, was laid out on land that lies entirely within the limits of Lansing in 1836.
- Many lots were sold to buyers in New York.
- When the first settlers reached the land they bought, they were shocked. It was early spring and rivers had overflowed their banks, covering the Biddle City with water.

On November 25, 1981, at Michigan State University, the World’s first superconducting **Cyclotron** smashed its first atom.

- The cyclotron enables scientists to study the characteristics of heavier elements at faster speeds than ever possible.
- Nuclear physicists use cyclotrons to recreate the cauldrons that exist inside stars and that result when stars die in gigantic explosions, called supernovae.
- Sometimes they create practical tools, such particle beams for cancer therapy or countermeasures against terrorism.
- The MSU cyclotron is the world’s first and the world’s largest superconducting cyclotron. Its 40-year history of nuclear science and accelerator physics makes it a logical launch pad for the next generation of nuclear physics.





# *Did You Know?*

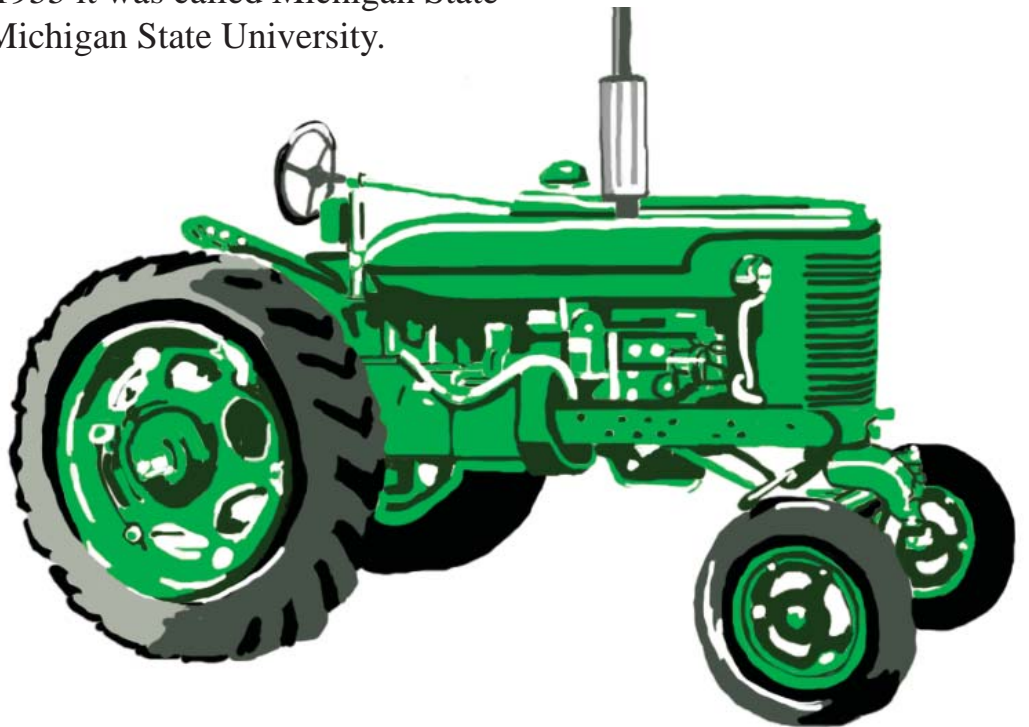


The Michigan **Vietnam Veterans Monument** was dedicated November 11, 2001 in Lansing.

- About 400,000 Michiganders served during the Vietnam War.
- The monument cost was 3.4 million dollars.
- It is comprised of a 120-foot-long, 10 foot high arc of steel suspended three feet above the ground and supported at one end by a concrete pier and suspended by a two inch tension cable.
- It weighs five tons.

**Michigan State University** is the oldest center for teaching of scientific Agriculture in the nation.

- The institution was established in 1855, and dedicated in 1857.
- The school was originally known as Michigan Agricultural College. From 1925 to 1955 it was called Michigan State College, then in 1955, Michigan State University.



# Lansing, Michigan Regional Population

	1980	1990	2000	2010	#Change 1980- 2010	%Change 1980- 2010
<b>Lansing Tri- County Region</b>	419,750	432,689	447,728	458,599	38,849	9.3%
Clinton County	55,893	57,898	64,753	62,883	6,990	12.5%
Bath Township	5,746	6,387	7,541	10,212	4,466	77.7%
Dewitt	3,165	3,964	4,702	5,143	1,978	62.5%
Dewitt Township	10,038	10,448	12,143	14,290	4,252	42.4%
St. Johns	7,376	7,392	7,485	7,524	148	2.0%
Watertown Township	3,602	3,731	4,162	4,284	682	18.9%
<b>Eaton County</b>	88,337	92,879	103,655	105,398	17,061	19.3%
Charlotte	8,251	8,083	8,083	9,343	1,092	13.2%
Delta Township	23,822	26,129	29,682	34,897	11,075	46.5%
Eaton Rapids	4,510	4,695	5,330	4,934	424	9.4%
Grand Ledge	6,920	7,579	7,650	7,791	871	12.6%
Olivet	1,604	1,604	1,758	1,446	(158)	(9.9%)
Potterville	1,502	1,532	2,168	1,789	287	19.1%
<b>Ingham County</b>	275,520	281,912	279,320	290,318	14,798	5.4%
Delhi Townsip	17,144	19,190	22,569	25,250	8,106	47.3%
East Lansing	51,392	50,677	46,525	52,380	988	1.9%
Lansing	130,595	127,321	119,128	123,223	(7,372)	(5.6%)
Leslie	2,110	2,180	2,044	2,169	59	2.8%
Mason	6,019	6,768	6,714	7,405	1,386	23.0%
Meridian Township	28,754	35,644	39,116	40,751	11,997	41.7%
Williamston	2,981	2,922	3,441	2,874	(107)	(3.6%)



# A HISTORY OF THE CITY OF LANSING, MICHIGAN

James Seymour, a canny and land-wise New York state businessman, started it all in the mid-1830's when the Michigan capital was still located in Detroit. He acquired vast holdings from the government for speculation. Some were around what is now Flushing, (which he started). He had picked Flushing as a likely location on the Northern Line of the new state-owned railroad system in the mid-1830's, but, when the state was caught up in the Panic of 1837 and the railroad scheme collapsed, that chance went glimmering.

His next scheme was to put a town on the map in his wilderness holding in interior Ingham County, the idea being to take advantage of an 1837 legislative resolution to decide in 1847 where a permanent capitol location would be made. Incidentally, there was considerable support for the idea of getting the capitol removed from Detroit, because of its proximity to Canada, residents well recalling how Canadian-British forces captured Detroit in the War of 1812.

Seymour established a tiny settlement, a mill and a dam site in the Grand River in Ingham County, and, when the time came to pick a capital site, lined up interior legislators who couldn't agree among themselves as to one of their communities, Lansing won the site.

This was in 1847. It took Lansing 12 years to gain sufficient growth to become incorporated, and it had only 1,500 residents then. Arrival of the railroads in the early 1860's along with small industries that could turn out agricultural implements that would help mechanize farms hard hit by a Civil War Manpower shortage was Lansing's next stride.

And among many Ohioans, to move here and help Lansing's industrial start was Pliny F. Olds, but Pliny's son, Ransom Eli Olds, had followed the doings of the Duryea Brothers and others in the east, thought he saw a chance of turning out a horseless carriage. He did too, but he switched from steam power to gasoline power.

The result: The Olds Motor Car Company in 1897. The Oldsmobile Division was one of several General Motors units in Lansing and enjoyed the distinction of a pioneer.

In 1850, Michigan farmers had formed the Michigan Agricultural Society, reasoning it was high time the farmers had a hearing in Lansing's legislative halls. Michigan's pioneers, the majority of them farmers, had a high regard for education. And many of them felt that founding of a college of agriculture at the University of Michigan would amount to obscuring agricultural education. It took them five years to win their battle, but win it they did.

Michigan Agricultural College was the result, and a tract of 676 acres was obtained in the woods three miles East of Lansing. Chartered in 1855, the school opened in 1857. It had an uphill struggle, grew gradually until 1923 when it became Michigan State College of Agriculture and applied sciences, and began expanding into non-agricultural fields. In 1955, on the centennial of its chartering, it became Michigan State University of Agriculture and Applied Sciences.

Diversification is an old term for Greater Lansing, which observed its Centennial in 1959 with pride and not a little gratefulness for this far sighted men who 100 years ago made historic accidents happen.

Reproduced by the Lansing Regional Chamber of Commerce

# Lansing's Climate



- Lansing has all four seasons spring, summer, winter and fall.
- Winds off of Lakes Michigan and Superior in winter create heavy snow accumulations in nearby areas.
- Precipitation in the area averages about 26 inches throughout the year.

Average Monthly Temperature (°F)

J F M A M J J A S O N D

HI 28 31 42 56 69 78 82 79 72 60 46 33

LO 13 14 24 35 45 54 59 57 50 40 31 19

## Lansing's Stars



**John Hughes**—film director

- The Breakfast Club (1985)
- Ferris Bueller's Day Off (1986)
- National Lampoon's Vacation (1983)
- Weird Science (1985)
- Planes, Trains & Automobiles (1987)
- Home Alone (1990)

**Magic Johnson**—NBA basketball star

**Ransom E. Olds**—Automobile Manufacturer; founded Olds Motor Work Company & REO Motor Car Company

**Larry Page**—co-founder of [Google](https://www.google.com) .com

**Steven Seagal**—actor

- Under Siege (1992)
- The Glimmer Man (1996)
- Exit Wounds (2001)
- Shadow Man (2006)

**John Smoltz**—Major League Baseball star

**Jim 'Soni' Sonefeld**—drummer & percussionist for Hootie & The Blowfish

**Tom Welling**—actor

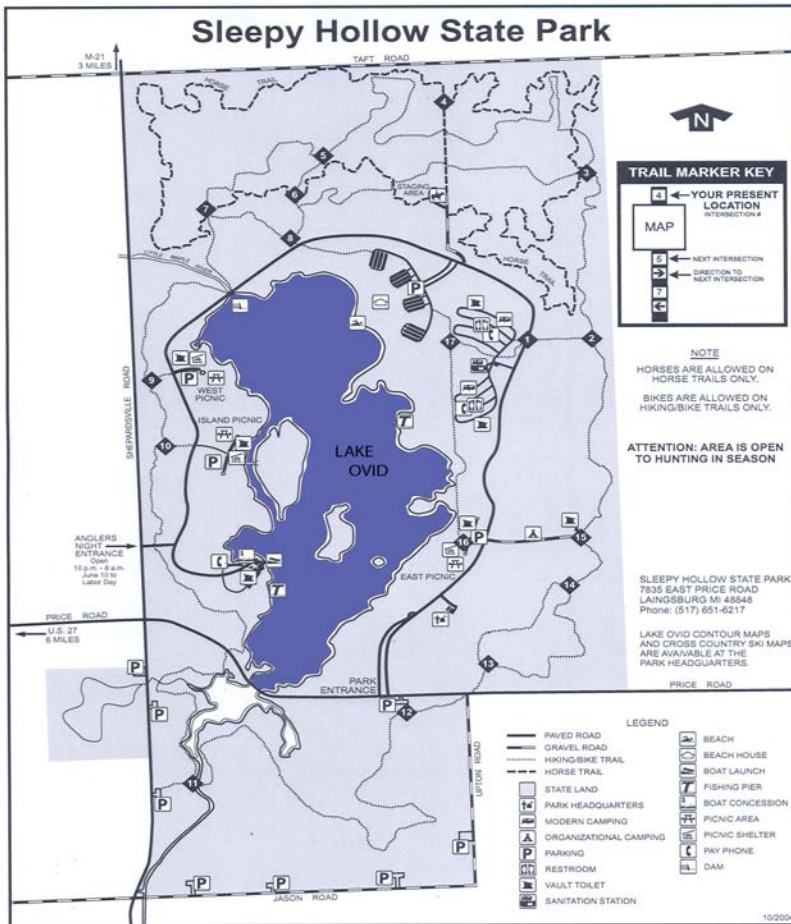
- Cheaper By The Dozen (2003)
- Cheaper By The Dozen2 (2005)
- Smallville (2001-present)
- The Fog (2005)

**Malcolm X** (also known as EL-Hajj Malik El-Shabazz)—human rights activist

**Timothy Busfield**—actor

- National Security (2003)
- Dead in a Heartbeat (2002)
- Wanted (1999)

# Sleepy Hollow State Park



- Contains over 2,600 acres of land.
- Lake Ovid is a 410 acre manmade lake that was made by creating a dam on the Little Maple River.
- There are 16 miles of hiking trails that you take through prairie grasses, hardwood forest and stands of pine trees.
- Lake Ovid has proven to be a very popular fishing lake with a wide variety of fish such as pike, large mouth and smallmouth bass, bluegill, sunfish, crappie, rock bass, perch, cat fish, and bullheads.
- The State Park is open to hunting and trapping during the appropriate seasons. The hunting is excellent for ducks, deer, rabbit, and squirrel. Turkey, woodcock, pheasant, quail and grouse are also found in the park.

## LANSING BOARD OF WATER & LIGHT

- Located near downtown Lansing, this plant was constructed in the early 1920's and has since undergone several rebuilding and expansion projects.
- Water from the Grand River is used to form energy for the power plant.
- The Eckert Station includes six electric generating units ranging from 41 megawatts (MW) capacity to 77 MW. The six units are capable of generating a total of 351 MW of electricity.
- The water system can deliver 20,000 tons of water each day.
- The water is sent to the customers at 43 degrees through 14,000 ft. of pipe that has been laid for the Lansing community.
- The smoke stacks of the Eckert Station are nicknamed Winkin', Blinkin', and Nod and are 619' tall

# Greater Lansing Visitor's WORD SEARCH

C N R G Y H H D F M S W Y Q K S Q I Q L  
 U E G F Z I M P G H R T V X G K C V C O  
 L B U H I S T O R Y R J V F R R H O X T  
 T N B B V T L L R Y T I V I T A E R C I  
 U B S N K O V E P Q Z S S K L P Y E X P  
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**AGRICULTURE**

**ART**

**CAPITOL**

**CREATIVITY**

**CULTURE**

**FOOD**

**FUN**

**GARDENS**

**LUGNUTS**

**MICHIGAN**

**MSU**

**MUSEUM**

**OLDSMOBILE**

**PARKS**

**RIVER**

**SPARTY**

**GOLF**

**HISTORICAL**

**HISTORY**

**LANSING**



For more information, please contact the Greater Lansing CVB at  
 (517) 487-6800 or toll free (888) 2-LANSING.