

## Michigan State Fair looks forward to grand facility expansion at Suburban Collection Showplace!

*Novi, MI:* The **2018 Michigan State Fair, LLC**, presented by **Ram Trucks**, will be **August 30 through September 3** at the **Suburban Collection Showplace** in Novi. This annual, family-friendly celebration of Michigan's thriving Agriculture industry is on the brink of an enormous leap forward, propelled by the 180K square foot facility expansion project that is currently underway at the Suburban Collection Showplace, 46100 Grand Rive Ave in Novi. "We host the largest carnival midway in Metro Detroit over the holiday weekend, along with the Detroit Shrine Circus... this venue expansion at the Showplace will add a brand new level of functionality and guest service for the State Fair, and it will do the same for other large scale events and national conventions that utilize the facility," says **Steve Masters, Executive Director of the Michigan State Fair**, "The new mezzanine viewing level and column-free interior open up nearly endless possibilities for innovative use of the space, and we will have great fun finding ways to fill it with attractions enjoy the State Fair in air conditioned comfort." Current information, exhibitor and vendor applications are available at [www.MichiganStateFairLLC.com](http://www.MichiganStateFairLLC.com)

State Fair partners **Kroger** and **Ram Trucks** are joining forces under the auspices of the "**Zero Hunger, Zero Waste**" initiative recently announced by Kroger at the national level. For every Michigan State Fair ticket purchased at Kroger stores during the summer, the State Fair will contribute a meal to **Gleaners Food Bank**, to serve families in need in the months ahead. Tickets for the Michigan State Fair are available now at the check out registers at all Southeast Michigan Kroger stores.

The State Fair has also launched a new Agriculture Ambassador program, funded by **Flagstar Bank**, aimed at expanding the reach and influence of its youth council. The mission of the Michigan State Fair Youth Council is to foster communication, share wisdom and build bridges between young people who have been raised on traditional rural farms, and their counterparts in Michigan cities, who are learning farm practices through Urban Agriculture programs and Community Gardens. Collaborative educational programs include a new chicken coop-building project slated for construction this summer at the Oakland Avenue Urban Farm in Detroit's Northend neighborhood.

On the opening day of the 2018 Michigan State Fair, Thursday August 30, Readers Round Up will feature multiple Michigan authors of children's books, on site and signing copies of their work, all day, including Christopher Paul Curtis, *Bud Not Buddy*, Kelsey Fox, *Just try it*, Wyatt, and J. Gabriel Gates, *The Sleepwalkers*. The first 500 children to enter the Fair on Thursday will receive a complimentary book by one of the featured authors and a book mark from the Oakland County Water Resources Commission.

Thursday August 30 is also **Honored Citizens Day**, offering free basic entry for all Seniors 65+, for all active Military service members with ID, and for all Scouts, 4-H and FFA members, in uniform or with a membership card.

Thursday August 30 the State Fair also offers \$5.00 off admission to the Fair, at the gate only, with a donation of three items of non-perishable food, to benefit **Gleaners Food Bank**.

The 2018 Michigan State Fair will host the **National North Country Cheviot Sheep** show for the first time, and the Fair is adding expanded poultry classes, more goat classes, a special clinic for High School Equestrian teams on Monday September 3, and a brand new Giant Pumpkin contest!!

The annual Monday **MegaJam** celebration of Michigan songwriters has an exciting new presenting partner, **Three Chord Bourbon**, a new bourbon produced in Michigan, and just launched in June



statewide. Three Chord is a collaborative effort led by multiple Grammy Award winning musician, producer and film composer **Neil Giraldo**.

Giraldo has worked with some of the greatest artists in music, including **Pat Benatar, John Waite, Rick Derringer, Kenny Loggins and many more**. Three Chord Bourbon gets its vanilla, caramel and maple soaked notes from a proprietary process they call "Perfectly Tuned Taste" which finishes the bourbon with sound...tonal vibrations. The name is also rooted in music as "Three Chords" are the roots of the blues and the 1-4-5 chord progression. (Complete MegaJam artist release enclosed)

Three Chord is proud to produce their products in Michigan, and also proud to support music based non-profit organizations such as the **Michigan State Fair, LLC, the Blues Foundation, the Detroit Blues society, Ann Arbor Blues Festival**, and more.

The 2018 Superstar talent competition will take place Thursday – Saturday on the St John Providence Ascension Main entertainment stage with 13 musical acts competing for the title with the winner being crowned on Saturday, August 1. **2017 State Fair Superstars The Gasoline Gypsies** have teamed up with members of the **Michigan State Fair Choir** to record a beautiful new version of the Gypsies song, Robin Redbreast, also including Jason Charboneau on cello. Robin Redbreast is the official State Fair Superstar song for 2018, which all finalists will perform at the Fair on Labor Day Weekend. A special, limited time free download of Robin Redbreast is available through September 4 at [www.MichiganStateFairLLC.com](http://www.MichiganStateFairLLC.com)

The Michigan State Fair is also delighted to welcome an exciting new nighttime drone show feature for 2018! The **Great Lakes Drone Company** will be flying more than two dozen aircraft after dusk over the fairgrounds each night, through Labor Day Weekend, with a multi colored light show that will add to the family friendly festival atmosphere at the Michigan State Fair, presented by Ram Trucks!

Current information online ticket purchase options are available now at [www.MichiganStateFairLLC.com](http://www.MichiganStateFairLLC.com)  
**Let's Celebrate Michigan Together!**

For additional information, hi-res images or interviews, please contact Nancy Phares, 248.390.7340  
[NPhares@MichiganStateFairLLC.com](mailto:NPhares@MichiganStateFairLLC.com)



Dear Friends in Michigan Media,

It has been an extraordinary journey these past six years, as a dedicated consortium of volunteers, corporate partners, vendors and exhibitors, elected officials and just plain ol' big fans of the Michigan State Fair have banded together to rebuild and reimagine this grand Michigan tradition. In August 2018, we celebrate the 6<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Michigan State Fair, LLC, Thursday, August 30 through Monday September 3, presented by Ram Trucks! It's a great time to pause, reflect and appreciate all those who have contributed to our progress to date—and take a peek over the horizon at the future of the Michigan State Fair and the Suburban Collection Showplace facility and fairgrounds, now undergoing a tremendous expansion...

In 2017, The Michigan State Fair returned more than \$552,000 in charitable contributions to a wide spectrum of community organizations. Urban and Rural Agriculture Scholarship awards now exceed \$40,000 per year, with a total of 51 recipients in 2017—the 2018 scholarship program is being made possible through the generous support of State Fair partners C.F. Burger Creamery, the Detroit Shriners, Kroger of Michigan, MSU College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, ITC Holdings, and Guernsey Farms Dairy. The State Fair focus on youth programs has also grown to include an Agriculture Ambassador Program, funded by Flagstar Bank, a Junior Fair Council advisory board, funded by ITC, comprised of past scholarship recipients ---and also continues to foster literacy with 500 free children's books given away to Fair attendees on Thursday August 30.

Due to the singular faith and determination of all those involved, the positive growth trajectory of the Michigan State Fair, LLC has been nothing less than dramatic over these past several years. The Suburban Collection Showplace facility is now under construction, adding 180,000+ square feet of new event space. The property footprint of the Fairgrounds at the Suburban Collection Showplace has expanded by 43 new acres, acquired since 2013, allowing the addition of new equestrian arenas, barns and the return of horse shows, continued expansion of the Shrine Circus infrastructure and Arnold Amusement Midway, and boasting more than 50 exciting rides--entertainment stages, and also the addition of the Ram Truck test drive experience track. Many folks now exclaim over the eye-popping expanse as they drive by on I-96!

Inside the Suburban Collection Showplace, Livestock Exhibitor participation continues to astonish us all with its growth, year over year...there is tremendous interest in the Michigan State Fair, LLC, from breeders across the Midwest, as word travels about the clean facilities, pleasant atmosphere and terrific amenities the Suburban Collection Showplace, Hyatt Place Hotel and Novi community offer to participants. The positive feedback from exhibitors is heartfelt ---and deeply appreciated by all who work hard to welcome the show animals and their handlers. Home Arts and Agriculture competitions and



exhibits also continue to grow by leaps and bounds each year, as more folks recapture the spirit of fun and friendly rivalry that surrounds participation in the Michigan State Fair.

The C.F. Burger Butter Cow, Racing Pigs, and Guernsey Farms Dairy endless cup of chocolate milk represent just a few of the old favorite fair traditions for families to enjoy.

We are also excited to share that we will be offering a new nighttime lighted drone show over the Midway each evening, from Thursday through Sunday, by Great Lakes Drone Co.!

Our Junior Fair Advisory Council, Livestock and Home Arts exhibitors, Michigan product producers and also myself are all available for interviews and station visits, please contact our Media Manager, Nancy Phares, for scheduling, or to arrange press access for the State Fair on Labor Day weekend at [NPhares@MichiganStateFairLLC.com](mailto:NPhares@MichiganStateFairLLC.com) or 248.390.7340.

Let's Celebrate Michigan Together!

Steve Masters  
Executive Director  
Michigan State Fair, presented by Ram Trucks



**For Immediate Release:**  
**Nancy Phares 248.390.7340**

## ***4<sup>th</sup> Annual MICHIGAN MUSIC MEGA JAM*** **MONDAY SEPTEMBER 3, 1-4 PM** ***At the Michigan State Fair in Novi***

*Novi, MI:* The Michigan State Fair LLC, presented by Ram Trucks, is all about celebrating Michigan's great abundance of tremendous resources and famous exports...Agriculture, Automobiles –and MUSIC! The 2018 Michigan State Fair will be open Thursday, August 30 through- Monday September 3 at the Suburban Collection Showplace, 46100 Grand River Ave in Novi. Advance Tickets are on sale now at all Southeast Michigan Kroger stores and at [www.MichiganStateFairLLC.com](http://www.MichiganStateFairLLC.com) . **The Michigan Music Mega Jam will be Monday, September 3 at 1:00 PM on the Ascension Main Stage**

The fourth annual Monday Michigan Mega Jam, now presented by **Three Chord Bourbon** and **WOMC, 104.3 FM** will joyfully honor the state's diverse musical legacy--with a sparkling multi-genre All-Star cast for 2018. Featuring shining Michigan stars **Laura Rain** (with **George Friend**), **Carolyn Striho**, 2017 State Fair Superstars **the Gasoline Gypsies**, **Brandon Calhoon**, **Nique Love Rhodes**, **Al Bettis**, **Ideeyah**, with host/emcee **Nadir Omowale**, all anchored by the stellar foundation of Detroit own **Brothers Groove** (**Chris Codish** keyboards, **James Simonson**, bass, and **Skeeto Valdez**, drums, wsg **Wayne Gerard**).

**Three Chord Bourbon** is an exciting new beverage produced in Michigan, just launched in June statewide, as well as in New York and California. Three Chord is a collaborative effort led by multiple Grammy Award winning musician, producer and film composer **Neil Giraldo**. "We are so delighted to welcome new Michigan Megajam presenting sponsor **Three Chord Bourbon**, says **State Fair Executive Director Steve Masters**, "Their deep roots in the music industry and dedication to delivering a high quality product blend perfectly with our mission to present an amazing and unique musical experience at the Michigan State Fair Megajam!" Three Chord founding partner Neil Giraldo has worked with some of the greatest artists in music, including **Pat Benatar**, **John Waite**, **Rick Derringer**, **Kenny Loggins** and **many more**. Three Chord Bourbon gets its vanilla, caramel and maple soaked notes from a proprietary process they call "Perfectly Tuned Taste" which finishes the bourbon with sound...tonal vibrations. The name is also rooted in music as "Three Chords" are the roots of the blues and the 1-4-5 chord progression.

Three Chord is proud to produce their products in Michigan, and also proud to support music based non-profit organizations such as the **Megajam** at the **Michigan State Fair, LLC**, the **Blues Foundation**, the **Detroit Blues society**, **Ann Arbor Blues Festival**, and more.

"The annual mission of this All-Star Michigan Mega Jam Revue performance is to showcase and celebrate the amazing depth and wide spectrum of musical talent that Michigan has to offer, for the world at large," says Mega Jam producer and host **Nadir Omowale**. "Michigan truly has such a uniquely diverse musical heritage and an incredibly talented music community, and here at home, we tend to take this for granted. Choose any genre. From rock to hip hop, to jazz, to soul, country and techno, Michigan boasts so many powerful artists, it's nearly impossible to name them all. Our annual mission is to honor and celebrate an array of these legendary artists, and songwriters, through the decades, and also show off some of the best current artists the state has to offer. These same performers also happen to be widely regarded as some of the most talented in the world, in their respective genres."



These glittering artists, each a star in their own musical galaxy, will be backed this year by **The Brothers Groove**, the stellar All-Star house band, the MegaJam cast will perform both original songs and classics by favorite Michigan artists and songwriters, spanning various genres from Motown to Rock to Gospel.

**Carolyn Striho** has been defying musical genres and creating music in punk, folk, rock and roll, jazz, blues as a singer/songwriter, musician and performer for many years. Her dynamic concerts, full of passion and creativity make Carolyn a regular on the festival circuit, across the Midwest and Canada, also touring in the UK, Italy, and Japan.

Her super high energy shows often include Striho playing keyboard with the heel of her boot or her forehead; she deftly switches between guitar and keys while belting out vibrant vocals. It's not merely about the music with Carolyn, it is a full body representation of her art and soul.

Backing up her original songwriting with amazing performances for years has earned Carolyn national and international respect. She is highly regarded on the Michigan Music scene, and has been honored by the Detroit Music Awards as Outstanding Rock/Pop Songwriter in 2015 & 2016, Outstanding Acoustic/Americana Album in 2014, Outstanding Rock/Pop Album in 2010 and more.

**Laura Rain and the Caesars** transform funky Soul and R&B into something fresh and unexpected with their own unique vision. Inspired by the spirit of classic recordings of a bygone era, Laura Rain creates her own environment of expression with a powerful and soulful voice. The band was formed in the Motor City in 2012, with her husband **George Friend**, and the pair set off on a creative journey, writing and recording their own music. The two garnered many accolades from music press and radio with their debut release "Electrified" in 2013. Performing with a stripped down lineup of organ, guitar and drums, the band developed it's signature sound, and cultivated a vintage toned energetic foundation.

Beginning in 2014, the band began touring heavily within the U.S. and Canada. Starting in Chicago with regular appearances at the House of Blues and Buddy Guy's Legends, Laura Rain has stunned audiences with her intensity and powerful voice. Performing in over 25 states from California to New York, the band has delighted audiences with their dynamic performances. Featured at the Mississippi Valley Blues Festival, Marquette Area Blues Festival, Edmonton Blues Festival, the Legendary Blues Cruise and many other top tier clubs and festivals, Laura Rain and the Caesars continue to grow making new friends and fans along the way.

**Brandon Calhoon**, a native son of Beaverton, MI, came to early fame as a finalist on the hit CBS reality TV show **Rock Star: INXS** in 2005. Since then, his career trajectory has expanded to embrace both the Rock and Country music genres, with several popular releases recorded in Detroit, northern Michigan and Nashville, and further forays into providing soundtracks for several television series (*Battle Creek*, *Justified*, *Backcountry Quest*) as well as commercial campaigns for **Chevrolet, the MLB Network and Red Bull International**. His 2010 song, ***Detroit City***, became a local pride anthem of sorts, and he has since attracted multiple nominations from the Detroit Music Awards for Outstanding Rock Vocalist. Brandon spent much of 2017 in Nashville, writing and recording his most recent release, ***Let It Ride***, with Grammy Award winning writer/producer Jim "Moose" Brown. Brandon will be performing across the U.S this fall with experiential marketing firm EEI of Rochester Hills, representing Ram Trucks at select Harvest celebration events.



**The Gasoline Gypsies**, of Port Huron, serve up rollicking, genre-transcending Blue Water Michigan Rock & Roll, delivered by four guys who clearly love their craft. With three part vocal harmonies, driving guitar and bass riffs, the songs are powerful and intense, yet simple and pure. The Gypsies are soon to release their most recent effort, "**Vagabundos!**" following a year full of accolades including being deemed one of the "**Three Best Unsigned Bands in the USA**" by JBL, **2018 WDIV Local 4 Best Original Rock Band** in Metro Detroit, and **Grand Prize Winners** of the **2017 Michigan State Fair Superstar** contest. The Gypsies also recently took home two Detroit Music Awards for **Outstanding Americana Group** and for **Outstanding Americana Recording**, for their 2017 release, **Killin' Time**.

The first incarnation of the Gasoline Gypsies was an acoustic, three-piece Folk/Rock act, featuring founding members **Caleb Malooley** and **Steve Briere**, a trio that crystalized the Gypsies love for crisp harmonies and mature themes. The departure of their percussion man for Nashville resulted in meeting drummer **Joe Makowski**, an unabashed rock and roller whose powerful style begged that the Gypsies plug right in, and test their Rock chops! Electrified, Caleb's front man guitar skills blossomed. Their evolution eventually led to the addition of guitarist **Neal Love**, who adds another invaluable layer of mystery and magic to The Gasoline Gypsies. This is a band that reverently respects the art of the music, and celebrates the rich legacy of Detroit flavored, Jam-based Rock & Roll. The Gypsies new EP, **Vagabundos**, celebrates their free spirited, open road ethic, and lays the foundation for their exciting new Gypsy fan tribe network, a creative, collaborative approach to engaging their followers in the fun of their journey, navigating life, and traversing the music business landscape of today.

**Ideeyah**: Defining her style as a funky creation influenced by electronic, soul and funk, you can find Ideeyah zoning out to a plethora of genres from Alice Coltrane to Zap Mama. Her on-stage presence captures attention and easily turns spectators into believers as she exudes an aura of love from her microphone into the amplifiers. Ideeyah's craft has garnered her mass appeal from her peers in the music world summoned upon to open up for/ perform alongside the likes of Jessica Care Moore, Monica Blaire, Joi, Erykah Badu, Nona Hendryx, Norma Jean Bell (Prince), Divinity Roxx (Beyoncé), Waajeed (Platinum Pied Pipers), Theo Parrish, Talib Kweli, Malcolm-Jamal Warner, Dwele, Zo!, and Amp Fiddler. She is currently touring with her debut solo album, **BRAVE**.

**Al Bettis** proves that it's never too late to follow your passion. Inspired at age 30, this self-taught singer-songwriter learned to play guitar and compose music. Al blends sounds of folk, jazz, and soul in a way that defies any one genre. Quickly attracting attention and making an impact, his debut single "It Is Beautiful" reached local top 10 countdowns in 2014. Gaining even more accolades for his live performances, he achieved the runner-up spot in the 2017 Michigan State Fair Superstar competition. Al Bettis recently released his new single "The One That Got Away" and is currently working on a new EP titled *Hard Love*.

**Nique Love Rhodes** is a hip-hop artist/performer, record producer, social entrepreneur, and community advocate from Detroit, Michigan with the mission to set souls on fire and contribute positive vibes in the world one song at a time. Inspired by artists such as Bob Marley and U2, Nique Love Rhodes creates music that elevates positive vibrations within the universal collective conscience, promotes social consciousness and social responsibility, and inspires people to affect positive change in the world.

With her self-released debut album, **Against All Odds**, Nique infuses her songs with messages of hope, unity, spirituality, and calls to action for social change as seen in songs such as "Love Heals All" and "Rise Up," which was licensed for use by the **NFL Network** and the **Detroit Lions**. In 2013, Nique was nominated for two Detroit Music Awards. Since this time, she has performed at many major festivals and headlined venues including the North by Northeast Music Festival (Toronto), African World Fest (Detroit), the Nuyorican Poets Café (New York City), and the South by Southwest Music Festival (Texas).



Her music is galvanized by her bold, energetic, and empowering live show. Backed by her band The NLR Experience, her interactive shows fuse hip-hop music with soul, rock, and jazz to create a dynamic live musical experience. This is sonically captured in the band's most recent project, a live album titled the NLR Experience, which is currently available on all streaming platforms.

**The Brothers Groove** are perhaps most conveniently described as a jazz funk trio with bluesy, soulful vocals. Their music exudes a sly, savvy funkiness sprinkled with unique characters, harmonies, and ideas. **Chris Codish** (keyboard/vocals) has penned colorful songs that he paints in smoky hues with his intimate baritone while **James Simonson** (bass) and **Skeeto Valdez** (drums) lay down a rock solid pocket underneath (both are also explosive, dynamic soloists in their own right).

While there's nothing the Brothers like better than to "put it in the pocket" they hold in reserve the musical chops to "push it into the red" and love to jam with each other or any of their many "All-Star" musical friends who might chance to drop by. However far out these improvisational flights might go, they never lose that solid dance groove and they never forget that that jazz was, and still is, a "dance" music. They've released three CDs ("Clamp It Down" "Layin' In The Cut" and "So Glad you Came") and have individually and collectively won over 40 Detroit Music Awards. In 2003 they were hand picked by Bose to exemplify and demonstrate the use of the new L1 Personal Amplification System. They've been featured on the cover of Metro Times and The Record (Detroit's Music Journal), which asked in a cover story if they were "Detroit's Hippest Band?" Give the Brothers Groove a listen and decide for yourself.

Held in high regard, Detroit **Wayne Gerard** combines his mastery of the guitar with his love for production and composition to produce the total package.

With numerous recordings and productions under his belt, he has also toured and performed with the likes of Bob James, Stevie Wonder, Angela Bofill, Warren Hill, Marion Meadows, Paul Taylor and many others. He has scored 10 feature length and short films as well as providing music for numerous film trailers and commercials.

**Host/Producer Nadir Omowale** doesn't have time to be satisfied. There is far too much life to be lived. The fourteen-time Detroit Music Award winner and former MTV News correspondent is driven by an impassioned activism. All of his hats – performer, producer, creative strategist – are worn by a man who explores as he produces, teaches as he advises, and creates art that honors the fact that life is filled with extremes and in-betweens. The result is infectious, a creative electricity that is the essence of Nadir.

Nadir will tell you that life is too important not to be an activist! His impressions about life are the essence of his work. His lyrics can tug at heartstrings, tickle funny bones, or evoke an honest look at the world around us, and (possibly more importantly) the world within us.

His music is influenced by funk, but don't call Nadir a funk revivalist. His understanding of rock, R&B, hip hop, and jazz takes funk to a most Nadir-centric next step; a Southern born, and Detroit raised sound that doesn't fit in traditional boxes. His music reaches across genres and political aisles, always challenging listeners with a funk inspired, Motor City sound that is as relevant today, as Holland-Dozier-Holland were in the sixties...When Nadir Omowale performs, you get more than music. You get all of the man, his humor, his passion, and the depth of a personality that embraces his responsibility to make this a better world, because of his love of life.

*"To label Nadir as a neo-soul artist would be neglecting his rock roots; to call him a rock artist would be overlooking his hip-hop and jazz influences. Fully encompassing all the talents that Nadir possesses would be comparable to expanding the mathematical term Pi to its last digit."*

--The Michigan Chronicle



The 2018 Michigan Mega Jam, presented by Three Chord Bourbon and WOMC, FM 104.3  
Monday, September 3, 1-4 PM at the Michigan State Fair, Suburban Collection Showplace, Novi!  
Tickets on sale now at all Southeast Michigan Kroger locations and at  
[www.MichiganStateFairLLC.com](http://www.MichiganStateFairLLC.com)

Media use only: For additional information, hi res images or in studio performances,  
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[www.MichiganStateFairLLC.com](http://www.MichiganStateFairLLC.com)



## **Congratulations, 2018 State Fair Superstar Semi-Finalists!**

*Novi, MI:* The fifth annual **State Fair Superstar Contest** anchors live musical entertainment at the State Fair in 2018, sponsored by **Pepsi-Cola**! This wildly popular feature of the Fair debuted in 2014, and is now celebrating its 5<sup>th</sup> year! The Superstar contest offers a purely Michigan mentoring twist on the standard pop music talent contest formula, with production of a three song EP at world famous **Pearl Sound Studios** of Canton, with internationally renowned sound engineer and producer **Chuck Alkazian**, plus songwriting advice plus artist and repertoire coaching from award-winning artist/producer **Nadir Omowale**, live performance booking consultation from **2 Stones Events**, and in addition to a cash prize and Indie Music Business Coaching from Music Mentor **Jill Jack** and her company, **Dream Big, Inc.** Fourteen semi-finalists, representing a broad range of musical genres and styles will perform on the Main Stage Thursday evening August 30, and Friday evening August 31. Five finalists will perform for the judges on Saturday September 1, with the Grand Prize Winner and Runner-Up headlining the State Fair on Sunday evening September 2.

### **The 2018 Michigan State Fair Superstar Contest Semi-Finalists are:**

**Aspen Jacobsen, Commerce Twp**  
**Black Tie Circus, Royal Oak**  
**Chrissii Key, Detroit**  
**Delaney Natke, North Branch**  
**Ellison, Detroit**  
**IS Evolution, Detroit**  
**Keynote Sisters, Lake Orion**

**Lisa Mary, Sterling Heights**  
**Loxodon, Flint**  
**Michael Martin, New Boston**  
**Stuart Benbow, Westland**  
**Telephon9, Detroit**  
**The Growing Roots, Alto**







For additional information, interviews or hi-res images, please contact Nancy Phares, 248.390.7340  
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The Michigan State Fair  
PRESENTS



# Friday Night Flights

BEER FESTIVAL

**\$10**

**AUGUST 31ST, 2018**  
**5:30 P.M. - 9:30 P.M.**

**\$15 EARLY ADMISSION AT 4:30 P.M.**

REGULAR ADMISSION RECEIVES 6 SAMPLES  
EARLY ADMISSION INCLUDES EXTRA HOUR AND 10 SAMPLES  
ADDITIONAL SAMPLES FOR PURCHASE WITHIN BEER TENT  
FAIR ADMISSION NOT INCLUDED

[WWW.MICHIGANSTATEFAIRLLC.COM](http://WWW.MICHIGANSTATEFAIRLLC.COM)





### **The Michigan State Fair Youth Council comes together to build Chicken Coop at Oakland Ave Urban Farm, Detroit!**

The Michigan State Fair Youth Council is a collaborative group comprised of young people from the city, suburbs and rural towns, who have a shared interest in Michigan Agriculture. Their latest project is a an expansive new Chicken Coop which will be located at Oakland Ave Urban farm, 9227 Goodwin St., in Detroit, where the young farmers there will be coached in best poultry-raising practices by experienced Poultry farmers Tom and Allie Purves from Clarkston, along with other members of the youth council advisory board..

The Michigan State Fair, presented by Ram Trucks, has launched a new Agriculture Ambassador youth program, funded by Flagstar Bank, aimed at expanding the reach and influence of its youth pro. The mission of the Michigan State Fair Youth Council is to foster communication, share wisdom and build bridges between young people who have been raised on traditional rural farms, and their counterparts in Michigan cities and suburbs, who are learning farm practices through Urban Agriculture programs and Community Gardens. Collaborative educational programs include this new chicken coop-building project slated for the Oakland Avenue Urban Farm in Detroit's North End neighborhood, and various other networking opportunities for farm youth from across the state, throughout the year.

The Michigan State Fair offers an annual educational scholarship program, available to all young agriculture enthusiasts statewide, awarding more that \$40,000 annually to students from across the state. Details on how to apply for 2019 grants may be found at [www.MichiganStateFairLLC.com](http://www.MichiganStateFairLLC.com)

## Reader's Round Up

### Thursday, August 30<sup>th</sup> 2018

J. Gabriel Gates grew up in Michigan, the son of a teacher and an industrial supplies salesman. After receiving his B.A. in theater from Florida State University, he moved to Los Angeles, where he acted in a dozen national TV commercials. He is an alum of Spalding University's MFA in writing program, and currently teaches writing at Olivet College and Kellogg Community College. His novels include:

*The Sleepwalkers*

*Blood Zero Sky*

*Dark Territory (The Tracks Book 1)*

*Ghost Crown (The Tracks Book 2)*

*Shadow Train (The Tracks Book 3)*



Giving away *The Sleepwalkers*

Kelsey Fox lives in Royal Oak, MI with her husband Steve, her son Cody, five chickens and "Little Cat"! Kelsey graduated from Oakland University with an Elementary Education degree. After teaching many years, she fell in love with children's books. Her experience in the classroom inspired her to start writing her own children's stories. All of Kelsey's characters are based on students she has known through her teaching career, children of friends, and of course family. She loves to incorporate what she knows into her work because it makes stories that the reader can relate to and teaches life lessons. Kelsey's active imagination and love of writing keep her busy. More stories from the "Wyatt" collection, as well as the introduction of new characters are on their way!



Giving away *Just Try It Wyatt*

Sheila Burke is originally from eastern Kentucky and the West Virginia foothills of Appalachia. She relocated to southeastern Michigan to complete her studies in business and consulting, and to further her career as a singer-songwriter, author, illustrator, and presenter. She enjoys touring and performing in concerts and workshops across America and internationally, along with her partner, Joe Kidd. As a duo, *Joe Kidd & Sheila Burke* have received the Michigan Governor's Award for artistic excellence in promoting peace and diversity through literacy, world music, and the arts. They also received a Global Music Award for folk song of the year in 2015, from their initial CD, *Everybody Has A Purpose*. They have won multiple Detroit Music Awards for outstanding world music songwriters of the year.



Giving away *Just Want to Be Myself*

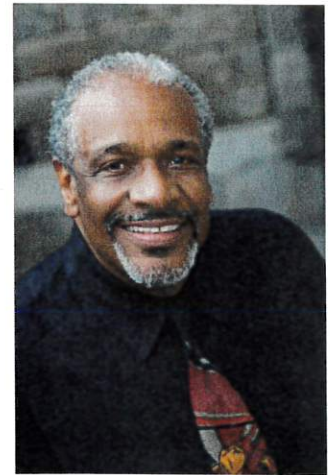


When Maria Dismondy was a little girl she was teased for her curly hair and favorite lunchbox fare, spaghetti in a hot dog bun. Many moons later, these and other real-life moments continue to fuel what is now her critically acclaimed children's book writing career. Maria has penned nine books that feature stories with topics ranging from anti-bullying to overcoming adversity, to friendship trials and tribulations, and beyond. Maria is dedicated to empowering those around her through her roles as author, teacher, public speaker, community leader and friend. Maria is intentional about making each day count and lives in southeast Michigan with her high school sweetheart husband, three kids and two pet snails.



Giving away *The Fruit Salad Friend*

Christopher Paul Curtis is the author of nine books for young people including *Bud, Not Buddy*, *The Mighty Miss Malone*, *Elijah of Buxton*, *The Watsons Go To Birmingham-1963* and *Mr. Chickee's Funny Money*. In addition to being translated into 12 languages and selling more than seven million copies, his work has been performed as an off-Broadway musical with a score written by Motown legend Lamont Dozier, a motion picture directed by Tony award winning director Kenny Leon and a world premier commission presented at the Kennedy Center in Washington D.C. with music written by Terrence Blanchard. In 2000 Curtis became the first African-American male to be awarded the prestigious Newbery medal. He is originally from Flint, Michigan where he worked for thirteen years at the historic Flint Fisher Body Number One automobile factory. His job was to hang doors on the largest Buicks, the Electra 225 and LeSabre. This has left him permanently adverse to entering large cars. Curtis currently lives in Windsor, Ontario with his wife Habon and their three children; Ayaan, Ebyaan and Libaan. His next two books will be based in his hometown of Flint, a city that has largely informed his writing career.



Giving away *Bud Not Buddy*

Tina Ballon DeBord started dreaming up stories in elementary school, and went on to earn degrees in writing from the University of Toledo and the University of Michigan. She lives in Sylvania, Ohio with her husband and two sons. *Smell My Elephant* is her first book.



Giving away *Smell My Elephant*



### Author Schedule

TIME:	AUTHOR:	BOOK:
10:30-11 A.M.	J. Gabriel Gates	<i>The Sleepwalkers</i>
11-11:30 A.M.	Break	
11:30-12 P.M.	Kelsey Fox	<i>Just Try It Wyatt</i>
12-12:30 P.M.	Break	
12:30-1 P.M.	Sheila Burke & Joe Kidd	<i>Just Want To Be Myself</i>
1-1:30 P.M.	Break	
1:30-2 P.M.	Maria Dismondy	<i>The Fruit Salad Friend</i>
2-2:30 P.M.	Break	
2:30-3 P.M.	Christopher Paul Curtis	<i>Bud Not Buddy</i>
3-3:30 P.M.	Break	
3:30-4 P.M.	Tina Ballon Debord	<i>Smell My Elephant</i>



# State Fair Favorites and Time Honored Traditions!

**Volunteers:** All involved with the Michigan State Fair, presented by Ram Trucks, have a deep appreciation for our volunteers, and they are truly the shining stars of the State Fair. More than 500 Volunteers, supported by Blue Care Network, helped make the 2017 Fifth Third Bank Michigan State Fair a great success! During the event, our wonderful volunteers assist with wrist-banding attendees, answering questions, providing directions, and so much more! They are a pivotal part of the friendliness, success and family fun of the Michigan State Fair, and nearly 80 percent return year after year. Volunteers, we salute you!

**Agriculture Scholarship Overview:** The Michigan State Fair, presented by Ram Trucks, is proud to invest in the future of agriculture in Michigan through the Urban, Rural and Equestrian Scholarship programs. The awards have increased from \$20,000 from their initial launch in 2013 to more than \$40,000 for 2018, in total, now more than \$250K; The winners and their communities are very diverse and spotlight the ever-changing culture and landscape of our great state. These scholarships were made possible through the ongoing support of our esteemed partners; C.F. Burger Creamery, the Detroit Shriners, Kroger Company of Michigan, MSU College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, Michigan Farm Bureau, Michigan Foundation for Agriculture and Guernsey Farms Dairy.

## **Entertainment Stages:**

**Shrine Circus:** The Detroit Shrine Circus, returns for 2018 with three of the world's largest Circus tents! This magnificent annual State Fair attraction, produced by Tarzan Zerbini, again features including a full line up of exciting circus performances including the famous **BIG CATS, Aerialists**, the renowned **Liberty Horses**, and as always, the hilarious Shrine clowns. Our guests will be amazed at all the changes and expansion! The Detroit Shriners are deeply proud to be a foundation partner of the Michigan State Fair, LLC, presented by Ram Trucks. The process of rebuilding this grand old Michigan tradition has been a great labor of love for the entire organization over the course of these past several years. Key members of the Shriners are delighted to serve on the Executive Committee of the State Fair, responsible for the oversight, direction and operation of the Fair. We gladly offer the deep resources and great humanitarian network of the Shriners Michigan Organization, along with so many other community leaders, towards this wonderful collaborative effort. We share the great pride of all who are involved in expanding and improving the Michigan State Fair each and every year, to provide a terrific family fun atmosphere and a great value to attendees

Once again in 2017, it will be our privilege to invite young Shrine hospital patients and their families, veterans, active military member and families to attend the Charity Preview evening on Wednesday August 29 as our guests. It is also with great pride the Shrine continues to be an underwriting sponsor of the State Fair Urban and Rural Scholarship programs, contributing \$7,000 in scholarship funds each year to assist Michigan youth in attaining their educational goals, and the Shrine is also a contributor to the City of Novi general fund, as part of the Executive Board donation to city programs.

**Ascension Main Stage:** Music is one of Michigan's most important exports; Detroit and the rest of the state are recognized across the globe for the depth and wealth of talent in many genres, including Rock, R&B, Folk, Country, Jazz, Blues, Gospel and Techno! The Main Stage at the State Fair, presented by Ascension Health Systems, hosts the second annual State Fair Superstar contest, in search of the next shining Michigan music star, plus the Monday Michigan Mega Jam, presented by WOMC 104.3 FM, (Mega Jam press release enclosed)



**Michigan Community and Cultural Stage:** The state of Michigan is historically a rich melting pot of diverse cultures, the state we know and love today was built by centuries of immigrants from all corners of the world, with all of their myriad ethnicities and traditions. The Community and Culture stage presents song, dance and storytelling from a wide variety of ethnic groups and organizations from across the state.

**State Fair Superstar** The Michigan State Fair Superstar talent mentoring competition, proudly presented by **Pepsi**, debuted in 2014, and is such a resounding success! The Superstar search attracts more than 70 applicants from across Michigan, annually. The prize package for 2017 encompasses both cash and mentoring from some of the most respected music professionals the state of Michigan has to offer. Songwriting and A& R coaching with multi-award winning Funk and Soul Impresario **Nadir Omowale**, Indie Music Business Coaching from enormously popular songstress and performer **Jill Jack**, plus a three song EP directed by renowned producer and engineer, **Chuck Alkazian** of Pearl Sound Studios in Canton; this has proved to be an inspiring combination that attracts a very talented group of contestants. **Alison Albrecht** of Birmingham was the 2014 State Fair Superstar contest winner, **Carly Bins** of Northville was grand prize winner in 2015, **Redi Choi** of Canton took top honors in 2016, and in 2017, The gasoline Gypsies of Port Huron were the first band to win the honor. All of these talented young acts are performing at events and festivals across the Midwest. Please see enclosed list of finalists for the 2018 State Fair Superstar Contest!

#### **State Fair Favorites:**

**Livestock Pavilion:** Livestock breed and Youth Showmanship competitions continue to expand every year at the Michigan State Fair, as more farms and breeders travel to Novi-- **Livestock Co-Superintendent Jackie Scramlin**, says "We are thrilled that the finals for the Michigan 'Make it with Wool' fiber design competition will return this year during the Fair." It's an exciting time for Michigan Agriculture and the Michigan State Fair is at the center of it all!"

**Equestrian Pavilion:** The slate of classes and competitions for the third year of the equine program at the State Fair for 2018 will include English (Hunt and Saddle Seat), and Western Equitation and Pleasure classes, Barrel Racing, Reining, and expanded pulling events, as well as new Mini Horse and Classic Draft Horse Carriage, and a special clinic on Monday Sept 3 for High School Equestrian Teams. In addition, we also welcome returning partners **Detroit Horse Power**, who introduce children who live in the city to the wonder of horses. Participants in the Summer 2018 Detroit Horse Power programs will also be demonstrating their new riding skills in the arenas at the Michigan State Fair, presented by Ram Trucks, during the weekend!

**Arnold Amusements Midway:** Kids of all ages will enjoy various rides, games and attractions provided by Michigan- based Arnold Amusements, Inc. This year we will feature more than 50 exciting rides!! Including a variety of thrill rides including the popular Freak Out, Orbiter, Flying Bobs, as well as popular family favorites such as the Ferris wheel! This popular State Fair family entertainment attraction continues to expand each year in Novi.

**Guernsey Farms Dairy Endless Cup of Chocolate Milk:** Guernsey Farms Dairy is celebrating their 78th Anniversary this year! In time honored State Fair fun, make sure to visit the Milking Cow Exhibit and milk Buttercup the cow, presented by Oakland County Farm Bureau---then get a coupon for Endless Chocolate Milk, take the coupon to the Guernsey Farms Dairy booth, pay \$1.00 for your 1st half pint of Guernsey chocolate milk and receive a wristband. Every time you come back to the Guernsey booth wearing your wristband, you will receive a FREE half pint of chocolate milk! The \$1.00 collected for the



endless chocolate milk from Guernsey Farms Dairy will go directly to the Urban and 4-H Youth Scholarship fund this year! Guernsey Farms Dairy is excited to be a part of giving back to the community and supporting future Michigan agriculture students and enthusiasts!

**Pepsi Contest Central:** Back in "The Day," some of the major highlights and most anticipated and discussed Michigan State Fair features were those that entertained, recognized, and celebrated all the great traits about the residents of Michigan. The traditions of friendly, comical and even sometimes ridiculous contests are alive and kicking at the Michigan State Fair, presented by Ram Trucks. Participants can watch or enter contests such as the Diaper Derby Baby Crawl Races, Frozen T-Shirt unraveling, Hula-Hooping, Pasta Eating, and Coney Eating Contests, among others.

**C.F. Burger Creamery Michigan Butter Cow:** The Michigan State Fair Butter Cow tradition dates back decades and is a wonderful merger of art, agriculture and butter! The 2017 Fifth Third Bank Michigan State Fair is very pleased to showcase the Michigan Butter Cow, and this year, it will include a new goat sculpture, presented once again by C.F. Burger Creamery.

**Michigan State University Extension Services and 4-H Clubs:** Michigan State University Extension will be offering fun, hands-on activities, giveaways, a 4-H meeting space and learning opportunities galore at the Michigan State Fair, presented by Ram Trucks. MSU Extension will offer expertise ranging from agriculture to health and nutrition, to gardening, personal finance to 4-H and youth development. We will have staff attending the fair helping attendees have fun, answer questions big and small and connect them with programming opportunities and educational resources.

Children can enjoy hands-on, experiential learning activities, including an archery station. Fair goers can also connect with MSU Extension Master Gardeners to learn about Smart Gardening -- environmentally-friendly, science-based gardening practices that produce results.

There will also be Michigan Fresh fact sheets and recipes to help you learn how to grow, store, and prepare delicious Michigan-grown fruits and vegetables from your home garden or local farmers market. Displays detailing dairy farms and other agriculture literacy topics, home and personal finance will also be available.

**Oakland County Farm Bureau Beginning of Life Exhibit:** The Beginning of Life Exhibit is a unique way to let guests enjoy baby animals and their families, with minimal impact on the young stock. With the health and well-being of the animals in mind, the Michigan State Fair has opted to feature baby animals that have been born recently and who are old enough to avoid stress from their State Fair experience.

**SunGlo Services Pig Races:** Fairgoers won't be able to resist watching another great tradition and family favorite, the Pig Races! These speedy little swine are sure to entertain as they squeal and snort their way across the finish line. Another old favorite, time-honored Michigan State Fair tradition!

**Rock-N-Roll K9's:** The inspiring Rock-N-Roll K-9's Performance Team has been providing great family fun and entertainment for millions of spectators since 1995. Spectators can witness a variety of breeds in every color, shape, size and age, as well as everyone's favorite, the All American Mix. Experienced handlers work side by side with their own personal loving companions; each one providing unique talent and skills that make every Rock-N-Roll K-9 show great fun to watch!



## **The History and Evolution of the Michigan State Fair and the Michigan State Fair, a Private Entity, LLC**

The original Michigan State Fair, which debuted in Detroit in 1849, was one of the first statewide fair events to take place in the United States. It moved permanently to its home at the Michigan State Fairgrounds on Woodward Avenue in 1905 and was staged there until 2009, when it was discontinued by a resolution of the state government, due to ongoing budget issues. The Michigan State Fair, LLC is now produced by a private entity, and presented with title sponsor Ram Trucks. The 2018 Michigan State Fair, presented by Ram Trucks, has a deep commitment to the ongoing development and support of agriculture, small business and family entertainment, while preserving the legacy and beloved traditions of the original State Fair. For more information on the Michigan State Fair, please visit

[www.MichiganStateFairLLC.com](http://www.MichiganStateFairLLC.com)

**About the Ram Truck Test Drive Experience:** Participants in the Ram Off-road Experience will be given rides with a performance driver, in either a Ram 1500, 2500 or 3500, through an obstacle course that demonstrates the truck's capabilities including: 30 degree wedge to demonstrate traction, rocks and logs to demonstrate articulation and stability, bumps to demonstrate suspension and a Ram Mountain to demonstrate the ground clearance, approach and departure angles. There is no additional fee for fair attendees to participate in the experience. Participants will receive a Ram baseball hat upon completion of the ride.

**The Michigan State Fair, presented by Ram Trucks, again partners with Elite Surface Shield (ESS) in 2018, providing advanced technology and a "State-of-the-Art" Bio-Security Program—aimed at reducing the risk of cross-contamination of germs, including a wide range bacteria, fungi, viruses, yeast and mold at Suburban Collection Showplace during the Michigan State Fair, provided each year since 2012. ESS focus is on Visitor Health & Hygiene, especially in regard to Children Touch-Points. ESS implements protocols of hygiene and application of residual cleaning effects with extended microbial cleaning capabilities on Touch-Points (human contact) hard surfaces. The Microbiostatic Agent has both tenacious bonding capabilities, as well superb antimicrobial properties. ESS' objective is also to help establish a healthier and safer environment for the animals and their caretakers.**

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For additional information, please contact Nancy Schoenheide-Phares, 248.486.3424 office, 248.390.7340 cell  
[NPhares@MichiganStateFairLLC.com](mailto:NPhares@MichiganStateFairLLC.com)





## **Opening Soon!! An additional 180,000+ square feet at The Suburban Collection Showplace –**

Novi, MI: The Suburban Collection Showplace, 46100 Grand River Ave, Novi, new facility expansion is currently on target to open in time for the Michigan State Fair! The expansion includes a new 90,000 square foot Event Center, which will be contiguous to the existing 215,000 square feet of exposition space. A unique and exciting feature of the new Event Center is the 70,000 square feet of column free Event Hall that has 40 foot clear ceiling height that will allow the carnival rides to expand into the interior space during the Michigan State Fair. The new space will also accommodate larger events, and allow for the expansion of many of the current exposition and convention events at the Showplace including the dramatic growth of the Michigan State Fair and Detroit Shrine Circus.

The Showplace expansion will also add 14 more meeting/banquet rooms to the venue, including a grand, 24,000 square foot, second story Ballroom overlooking the new event center, plus 14,000 square feet of upper and lower level pre-function space. The Suburban Collection Showplace Event Center will now be able to offer over 300,000 total square feet of continuous exposition space as well as 4 large ballrooms ranging from 5,700 square feet to 24,000 square feet with 40 total meeting/breakout rooms along with the attached Hyatt Place Hotel. The new expansion will enable the facility to host larger consumer shows, entertainment events, athletic events, trade shows, social events and association conventions. Also, significant expansion and upgrades are being made to the exterior of the property, including the addition of thousands of feet of new surfaced and graded/gravel parking areas to accommodate up to 6,000 vehicles. These areas will also accommodate outdoor activities relating to the Michigan State Fair and other future large scale outdoor events. "The facility expansion is a direct response to the success of our annual event schedule, needs of our current clients, as well as inquiries from larger events wishing to utilize the venue," says Blair Bowman, Owner of the Suburban Collection Showplace, "We are delighted that we are able to make this significant investment to accommodate our client events and patrons. We are confident that this expansion will only enhance the positive economic impact the facility has on a local, regional, and state level."

The Michigan State Fair, LLC, presented by Ram Trucks, is the largest annual event that is currently hosted at the Suburban Collection Showplace. Executive Director, Steve Masters added, "We look forward to utilizing the new space for Michigan State Fair, LLC, and are excited to explore the possibilities in enhancing visitor and exhibitor experience during the event. We continue to add new attractions every year and the number of animals and exhibitors that attend the State Fair is also increasing. The new space will enable us to keep pace with the current growth trajectory we are experiencing and allow us to increase the number of rides, vendors, activations and experiences for fairgoers both on the inside and outside. Masters went on to say "Another benefit of the expansion is that because of the enormity of the interior space, a larger part of the State Fair can occur inside of an air conditioned space. That weatherproofs us from the unpredictability of our Pure Michigan weather and rain or shine the State Fair will go on."



### **About the Suburban Collection Showplace**

The **Suburban Collection Showplace** opened at its current location at 46100 Grand River in Novi in 2005 as the Rock Financial Showplace. It is owned and operated by proprietor Blair Bowman. The Suburban Collection Showplace is widely recognized as one of the most successful privately owned convention and exposition center in the U.S.A. The business formerly operated as the Novi Expo Center, in a repurposed manufacturing facility located at Interstate I-96 and Novi Road. The Novi Expo Center formally opened for business in 1992. In 2005, the Showplace operations were relocated to the new facility between Beck and Taft Roads and opened under a naming rights arrangement with Rock Financial.

After Rock Financial had transitioned to Quicken Loans, a new agreement was reached with the Suburban Collection automobiles dealership group, headquartered in Troy, Michigan. The center was renamed in 2010, the facility currently operates under the name "Suburban Collection Showplace."

The facility is currently undergoing an expansion, which when complete will increase the total square footage to 600,000 square feet. This includes the 180,000 square foot multi-purpose expansion, the 340,000 square feet of existing exposition, convention, and conference space and the existing 80,000 square foot Hyatt Place Hotel.

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For additional information, interviews or hi-res renderings, please contact Nancy Schoenheide Phares

248.486.3424 office, 248.390.7340 mobile [nphares@MichiganStateFairLLC.com](mailto:nphares@MichiganStateFairLLC.com)





## Michigan Blood

### Michigan State Fair Hosts Blood Drive with Michigan Blood

*Blood donors receive free general admission and free parking*

NOVI, Mich. (July 30, 2018) – Someone needs blood every two seconds. This means every time someone lends an arm to donate blood, the pint they give is already spoken for. To help meet the need of patients across the state, the Michigan State Fair is partnering with Michigan Blood for the fourth year in a row to host a series of blood drives. Not only will blood donors help to save lives, but they will also receive a special thank you: free admission into the fair, free parking, and a \$10 Kroger gift card.

These blood drives are happening at a high-need time. Donations tend to be lower in the summer and during long holiday weekends like Labor Day.

"This makes the difference for people in our state," said Jim Wilson, president of Michigan Blood, "The need for blood never takes a holiday. By hosting blood drives with the State Fair, it is a reminder to the community that blood donations are needed every day of the year."

In 2017, Michigan Blood received 166 donations at the Michigan State Fair blood drives, which helped 498 patients across the state.

Here's a list of the dates, times, and location of the Michigan State Fair blood drives:

#### **The Suburban Collection Showplace**

**46100 Grand River, Novi**

Thursday, 8/30: 10am to 4pm

Friday, 8/31: 1pm to 6pm

Saturday, 9/1: 10am to 4pm

Sunday, 9/2: 10am to 4pm

Monday, 9/3: 10am to 3pm

Michigan Blood is the primary provider of blood and blood products for more than 60 hospitals in Michigan, including Beaumont Health System, Henry Ford Health System, and St. John Providence Hospitals. Donations given outside of Michigan Blood do not have direct local impact. Donating blood with Michigan Blood helps save the lives of patients in Michigan hospitals. Any healthy person 17 or older (or 16 with parental consent) may be eligible to donate, although there are height and weight restrictions for people 16 to 18 years old. Anyone 19 and older must weigh at least 112 lbs. Blood donors should bring photo ID. Please schedule an appointment to donate by calling 1-866-MIBLOOD (642-5663), texting MIBLOOD to 444999, or visiting [donate.miblood.org](https://donate.miblood.org).

#### **About Michigan Blood**

Founded in 1955, Michigan Blood is a fast growing, independent, non-profit blood bank headquartered in Grand Rapids. It is the primary provider of blood products and services for more than 60 hospitals throughout Michigan and is an established leader in quality and service.

(More)



Michigan Blood collects more than 126,000 units of blood each year at eight permanent donation sites and more than 3,600 mobile blood drives in 59 counties statewide. Michigan Blood has a nationally recognized stem cell (marrow) program and created Michigan's first public cord blood bank. In addition, Michigan Blood provides therapeutic apheresis, cellular therapies for the treatment of cancer and transfusion medicine consultations. For more information, visit [www.miblood.org](http://www.miblood.org).

For more information:

Amanda Hatfield | Michigan Blood Account Representative | 248-770-3956 | [ahatfield@miblood.org](mailto:ahatfield@miblood.org)



## New Giant Pumpkin Contest!

New this year at the Michigan State Fair, presented by presented by Ram Trucks, a new giant pumpkin contest, featuring carving by renowned Saginaw artist, John Martinez! The State Fair will be open Thursday August 30 through Monday September 3 at the Suburban Collection Showplace in Novi. Info and tickets at [www.MichiganStateFairLLC.com](http://www.MichiganStateFairLLC.com)

John mARTinez (professional artist) speaking on pumpkin carving:

"I love to speak to people about art, but a lot of the time people are not confident enough to talk about it back, let alone, try it. That is where pumpkins come into the picture. At some point in our lives, I believe that many people have had the opportunity to carve into a pumpkin. Even if it were only a jack-o-lantern with triangle eyes and a toothless smile, many of us are familiar with the sensation of cutting into a pumpkin to create something scary or funny. So when we get a chance to see someone take this art to the next level, the relative familiarity of the process makes it seem a little more possible to us. People are more readily inspired to ask a question or two and maybe, just maybe, try it themselves."

When John Martinez was first introduced to pumpkin carving in the mid 90's he was a teacher at a Mid-Michigan high school. The opportunity came in the form of an invitation from a local farm school for his high school students to participate in a pumpkin carving competition against other area high schools. Since school pride was on the line, he decided that is he was to teach it, he would have to learn how to do it. H has been practicing ever since.



Today John carves for the simple, relaxing fun of it. He has been carving pumpkins and meeting people at a variety of venues all over the state for the past 20 autumns. When the season no longer offers this fruit as a medium to carve on, John and his artist friends might be found sculpting other mediums whose life span is just as temporary; such as sand and snow. Not to worry though, a great deal of John's efforts are spent creating a much more permanent impression on the Art world.

The ART Club Hub is John's evolving vision of the next generation art studio. A studio that of course features the creative skills and services offered by John himself, but also features the artistic menu of an entire community of artists, The ART Club offers the client in search of talent, a high variety of artists, artistic styles, ideas, services, and options to choose from. At the same time ART Club offers the individual artist a stage and forum to showcase their individual talents. Plus, it allows the individual artists to team up and select from a pool or

qualified proven artists from within the community for a job that may be too large for a single person. For those clients who may be big in the idea department, but not so big in the talent department, this means more creative power available at one location. For the individual this means more work for more artists.

“Our goal is to replace the “starving artist” with a “healthier and better fed artists”, John says, “ we feel that has a much nicer ring to it!”







*Jim Nash*

## **Oakland County Water Resources Commissioner's Office Helps Promote Infrastructure Literacy at the Michigan State Fair**

(Waterford, Michigan) – On August 30, the Oakland County Water Resources Commissioner Jim Nash and his office will kick-off the annual Michigan State Fair, by giving away 500 educational bookmarks as part of the fair's children's book giveaway initiative to promote literacy. "I am glad to partner with the fair to support such an important endeavor," said Commissioner Jim Nash. Bookmarks are not the only items that the Oakland County Water Resource Commissioner's Office will provide. Toilet leak detector kits and lunch bags made out of recyclable plastics will be among the many educational and informational items given away.

"Being a part of the Michigan State Fair's rich agricultural tradition and having the opportunity to educate residents from across the state about very important issues relating to water infrastructure is a great platform. We will be able to reach a larger audience and promote water resources on a larger scale to help people understand its value while connecting water's impact on agriculture," said Commissioner Jim Nash.

"Bringing agriculture and water together is a natural fit for us. This is a historic effort and is the first time that we have had such an endeavor. Water and water resource literacy is very important to our state. You cannot have agriculture without water; it goes hand-in-hand. I am excited about this year's collaboration with the Oakland County Water Resources Commissioner's Office and Commissioner Jim Nash," said Steve Masters, executive director of the Michigan State Fair.

On Thursday, August 30, the Oakland County Water Resources Commissioner's Office (WRC) will promote water infrastructure literacy in recognition of WRC Day at the fair, which will consist of the following:

- WRC will show an informative educational video focusing on water infrastructure, Fats, Oils, and Grease (FOG), ragging caused by flushable wipes and other important issues. Presenting a visually, compelling and informative video that will be featured on three television screens. The information shared will highlight WRC's Fair Day's theme: **"What You Need to Know About Our Water Resources."**

- Commissioner Jim Nash and members of WRC's staff volunteer ambassadors will share information and answer questions.
- The very popular Dirt Doctors educational team will make their debut at the Michigan State Fair. They will perform a series of demonstrations teaching children about the greatest pollution threats to our waterways and natural resources. They will also highlight the water cycle and select one lucky young person from the audience to be a dirt doctor during each presentation. At 4:30 p.m., the Dirt Doctors will be featured on the Michigan State Fair's Demonstration Stage. The Dirt Doctors will only be performing on August 30 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- The Annual Kids' Clean Water Calendar Contest will be promoted, and 4th and 5th grade students will be encouraged to participate in the 2019 contest. Sponsored by Pure Oakland Water (POW), which is an ongoing educational outreach organization that is dedicated to protecting Oakland County and regional water resources through public education and community outreach; the calendar contest continues to be a popular educational initiative for school age children. Pure Oakland Water collaborates with the Oakland County Water Resources Commissioner's Office to promote this educational effort each year.
- Promote the upcoming and ongoing Infrastructure **101 "What You Need to Know Below & Beyond"** Library Literacy Discussions that are held throughout Oakland County. The next discussions are scheduled for September 19 in Highland Township; September 20 in Novi and September 23 in Royal Oak and will be held in each of these communities' public libraries.
- Provide a wealth of literature ranging from PFAS, lead and copper, waterfront, lakes, and groundwater to information relating to the Water Residential Assistance Program (WRAP) and career opportunities. This information will be provided courtesy of the Michigan Ground Water Association, the Wayne Metropolitan Community Action Agency, the Great Lakes Water Authority, Oakland County Water Resources Commissioner's Office along with many other agencies and organizations.
- To promote conservation literacy and bring awareness to the importance of being good stewards of water resources and the impact of recyclable bottles, WRC will have a quench cart courtesy of the Michigan Groundwater Association and Wayne Metropolitan Community Action Agency. The cart will be available only on August 30.

These are only a few of the many highlights that will be taking place during WRC's Day at the fair on August 30. Following the official day, the Oakland County Water Resources Office will have a presence from Thursday, August 30 to Monday, September 3, which will end on Labor Day. Each day of the fair, the WRC is scheduled from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.