

# LCC to polish Darius Moon's gem of a house on Capitol Avenue

\$600K budgeted for exterior; Historical Society eyed to become a tenant

In his career as an educator, Lansing Community College President Steve Robinson has been a great many things. One of them, though, has not been a historical preservationist — until now.

It's a role he relishes learning, as the college begins an effort to properly restore the exterior of the Rogers-Carrier House at 528 N. Capitol Ave., also known as the "Moon House" in honor of architect Darius Moon, the self-taught genius whose works dot mid-Michigan. Last June the trustees approved an estimated \$600,000 for the project.

"I think it's an important part of who we are," Robinson said. "As a college, we're an important part of Lansing history, and we're also doing a lot to preserve Lansing history. So it's exciting for me."

Moon's noteworthy commissions in Lansing include the Turner-Dodge House. Many of his other houses are long gone, notably the R.E. Olds mansion, which stood at 720 N. Washington Ave.

The work is scheduled to include cleaning of existing masonry surfaces and applying a seal coat, replacement of spalling (broken) bricks and tuckpointing, installation of new perimeter sealant at exterior windows, installation of new exterior siding, exterior painting, replacement of the existing eaves and gutter system and replacement of existing shingle roof.

The project will also relocate an existing flue from an exterior window location through the roof.

The Rogers-Carrier House, built in 1891, is regarded as a prime example of the Queen Anne style of architecture. The style is identifiable by touches like gingerbread, curlicues and ornamental turrets.

Robinson said there used to be a building formerly housing the college's boardroom between the Moon House and the adjacent Hermann House at 520 N. Capitol, which was restored by



Courtesy of CADL Local History

A photo of the Rogers-Carrier House from the turn of the 20th Century or earlier.

Robinson's predecessor, Brent Knight, as the president's residence. The two homes and the boardroom building between them jokingly got dubbed the Hermann Conference Center.

"As a college, we've really kept (the Moon House) as a historical landmark in the area," David Siwik, an LCC history professor who has immersed himself in LCC's backstory, said.

Several departmental offices were formerly lodged at the two houses.

The college has owned the Moon House since 1967 and used it briefly as a bookstore and as office space. Besides the Moon and Hermann houses, the college owns one more historic home, known as the Beck House and was the longtime home of the Michigan Sheriffs' Association. The Beck House is across the street from the other two houses.

Siwik said that at the time the college purchased the Rogers-Carrier House, the neighborhood wasn't the best.

"To have a house like that survive ... there's not a whole lot of homes nearby left like that," Siwik said.

While LCC isn't using the house, the property has been scrupulously maintained.

The improvements would keep the house "in good repair," Robinson said. The goal is forging partnerships with other area historic preservation groups.

"We've had very specific conversations with the Historical Society of Greater Lansing," he said, with the objective of housing administrative offices and a small "pocket" museum with exhibition space.

It's not clear how long it will take to complete the improvements, given the

difficulty of locating artisans with the necessary skills. Robinson said he believes the work could be done within a year, but that will depend on the price of building supplies and the cost of construction.

Fundraising for work on the interior would be done by the Historical Society. "We haven't gotten there yet," Robinson said.

Society President Bill Castanier said the two groups have been meeting regularly over the past six to eight months.

The society would occupy the house as a tenant of sorts, Castanier said, noting they would

renovate the ground floor to feature both office and exhibition space.

One part of the first floor would house a research center for the benefit of Lansing-area students, faculty and staff.

"That's part of the relationship with LCC that everyone agrees is probably the best idea," Castanier said.

He's brim-full of exhibit ideas too, including the inaugural, which would detail ordinary Lansing-area residents' origin stories. (Think about the PBS series "Finding Your Roots.")

Such an exhibition would naturally include family heirlooms.

"If we talk to someone, we would ask them, 'Did your family ever pass anything down to you that they had brought with them from wherever they came?'"


Historical Society members, he continued, would be able to work with students and help create projects that would be real-life challenges. Castanier has already been daydreaming about how the two groups could collaborate.

"They could do video. They could do audio," he said. "We would hope to work with as many student groups as we could."

In a career that spanned more than 60 years, Moon designed homes for some of Lansing's best-known residents, including men's clothing retailer Henry Kositchek and Edward D. Sparrow.

Robinson called Moon "an incredibly significant architect" for Lansing. As for the house, "there really isn't a better example of that Queen Anne architecture anywhere in the city."

Moon's impact was felt all over metropolitan Lansing, including one home originally known as the Woodbury House, now the Howland House co-op  
See LCC, Page 7

  
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**CITY OF EAST LANSING  
NOTICE OF REGISTRATION  
FOR THE NOVEMBER 8, 2022 ELECTION**

To the qualified electors of the City of East Lansing:

Please take notice that the City of East Lansing will hold a State General Election on November 8, 2022.

**For the purposes of electing the following non-partisan offices:**

- Governor and Lieutenant Governor
- Secretary of State
- Attorney General
- U.S. Representative in Congress
- State Senator
- State Representative
- State Board of Education
- University of Michigan Board of Regents
- Michigan State University Board of Trustees
- Wayne State University Board of Governors
- Ingham County Treasurer
- County Commissioner

**The following non-partisan offices:**

- Justice of the Supreme Court
- Judge of the Court of Appeals
- Judge of the Circuit Court
- Judge of the District Court
- Lansing Community College Board of Trustees
- East Lansing School Board
- Lansing School Board (Part of East Lansing)
- Bath School Board (Part of East Lansing)

**Also to vote on the following proposals:**

Proposal 22-1: A proposal to amend the state constitution to require annual public financial disclosure reports by legislators and other state officers and change state legislator term limit to 12 total years in legislature

Proposal 22-2: A proposal to amend the state constitution to add provisions regarding elections

Proposal 22-3: A proposal to amend the state constitution to establish new individual right to reproductive freedom, including right to make all decisions about pregnancy and abortion; allow state to regulate abortion in some cases; and forbid prosecution of individuals exercising established right

City:

Renewal of East Lansing Public Library Millage Question

Full text of the ballot proposals may be obtained at the East Lansing City Clerk's Office, 410 Abbot Road, Room 100, East Lansing, MI 48823. Sample ballots can also be found at [www.mi.gov/vote](http://www.mi.gov/vote).

Any qualified elector who is not already registered, may register to vote at the office of the East Lansing City Clerk; the office of their County Clerk; a Secretary of State Branch Office, or other designated state agency. Qualified electors who have a valid Michigan driver's license or state ID, may register online at <https://mvmc.sos.state.mi.us/>. Registration forms may be obtained at [mi.gov/vote](http://mi.gov/vote) and mailed or dropped off at the office of the East Lansing City Clerk. Voters who are already registered may update their registration at [www.expressSOS.com](http://www.expressSOS.com).

**The last day to register in any manner other than in-person with the East Lansing City Clerk's Office is October 24, 2022. After this date, anyone who qualifies as an elector must register to vote in person with proof of residency (MCL 168.492) at the following locations and times:**

East Lansing City Clerk – City Hall pm 410 Abbot Road, Room 100 East Lansing, MI 48823	<u>Regular Business Hours:</u> Monday-Friday from 8 am-5 pm Additional Hours: November 5 & 6 from 8 am-4 pm November 8 from 7 am-8 pm
City Clerk Satellite Office MSU – IM East 804 E. Shaw Lane East Lansing, MI 48823	<b>October 26-28, 2022</b> Open each day from 11 am-7 pm
City Clerk Satellite Office MSU – Brody Hall 241 W. Brody Road East Lansing, MI 48823	<b>October 31-November 8, 2022</b> October 31-November 6 from 11 am-7 pm November 7 from 11 am-4 pm November 8 from 7am-8 pm

ABSENT VOTER BALLOTS:

Any registered voter may request an Absent Voter Ballot. No reason required.

The East Lansing City Clerk's Office must have a signed application to issue an Absent Voter Ballot. You may apply online at [www.mi.gov/vote](http://www.mi.gov/vote) or at the East Lansing City Clerk's Office.

November 7, 2022 at 4 pm is the deadline to request an absentee ballot except for those who register to vote on Election Day. Ballots issued on November 7, 2022 must be requested and voted in person at either of the East Lansing City Clerk's Offices.

Those registering to vote on Election Day, November 8, 2022, are eligible to receive an Absent Voter Ballot at either of the East Lansing City Clerk's Offices.

Jennifer Shuster  
East Lansing City Clerk

CP#22-217

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING  
EAST LANSING PLANNING COMMISSION**

**Notice is hereby given** of the following public hearing to be held by the East Lansing Planning Commission on **Wednesday, October 26, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.** at the **East Lansing Hannah Community Center**, 819 Abbot Road, East Lansing, MI, 48823.

Request from Green Cure Group, LLC for a special use permit to open an adult use marihuana retail establishment at 2040 Merritt Road. The 6.42-acre property is zoned B-2 (Retail Sales Business District).

The public may attend and participate at all meetings in person. Members of the public may participate electronically in all meetings. Please contact the Planning and Zoning Administrator or visit the City's public meeting portal for electronic meeting access information:

Peter Menser – Planning and Zoning Administrator  
410 Abbot Road  
East Lansing, MI 48823  
517.319.6861 or [pmenser@cityofeastlansing.com](mailto:pmenser@cityofeastlansing.com)  
<https://cityofeastlansing.civicweb.net/Portal/>

For more information on the request please contact Planning and Zoning Administrator Peter Menser at the contact info above. Materials related to the request are available for viewing at the Department of Planning, Building, and Development, East Lansing City Hall, 410 Abbot Road, East Lansing, MI, 48823 between the hours of 8:00 am and 5:00 pm or on the City's website located at [www.cityofeastlansing.com/currentapplications](http://www.cityofeastlansing.com/currentapplications). Written comments may be sent prior to the public hearing to the Planning Commission, City of East Lansing, 410 Abbot Road, East Lansing, Michigan, 48823, or by email to [coelplanningcommission@cityofeastlansing.com](mailto:coelplanningcommission@cityofeastlansing.com).

The City of East Lansing will provide reasonable auxiliary aids and services, such as interpreters for the hearing impaired and audio tapes of printed materials being considered at the meeting, to individuals with disabilities upon request received by the City seven (7) calendar days prior to the meeting. Individuals with disabilities requiring aids or services must contact the City Manager's Office, 410 Abbot Road, East Lansing, MI, 48823, (517) 319-6920 (TDD Number: 1-800-649-3777) or via email at [nmostel@cityofeastlansing.com](mailto:nmostel@cityofeastlansing.com).

**This notice is posted in compliance with PA 267 of 1976 as amended (Open Meetings Act) and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and published in compliance with the Michigan Zoning Enabling Act, 2006 P.A. 110.**

Jennifer Shuster  
City Clerk

Dated: September 29, 2022  
East Lansing, MI 48823

CP#22-214

**LCC**

from page 6

at 415 M.A.C. Avenue in East Lansing. Another Moon work, a two-story brick house, is near LCC's West Campus entrance at Mt. Hope Road and Sanders Drive.

A recent tenant, Siwik said, was an architectural firm.

The college, Castanier said, has served as good stewards of the Moon House. Robinson related a story about the previous owners of the home, who decided that the distinctive "witch's hat" turret was dated and unattractive.

Off to the dump the turret went, and what price it fetched the then-owners from

the scrap metal dealer is unknown. Robinson picked up the story in the 1980s.

"Our welding students and faculty fabricated the one that's up there now," he said. "It's a great story of the faculty and students at LCC taking ownership of that."

How does the replacement compare? "They absolutely nailed it. It looks exactly like it did in the 19th century," Robinson said.

"We're really proud that we own it, and I think the collaboration with the Historical Society is a really natural fit."

**– DAWN PARKER**