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The Detroit News

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LUXE COLLEGE LIVING

Upscale housing proliferates in university towns, fueling questions about affordability



Photos by Clarence Tabb Jr. / The Detroit News

Vic Village South is just one of the several higher-end apartments near the UM campus with other offerings including VERVE, Saga and The Legacy. Rents around town can exceed \$2,000 per month per student in some buildings.

BY ALYSSA TISCH
The Detroit News

Ann Arbor — High-end student housing is spreading rapidly across large college towns. One result: rooftop pools.

There are others at Washtenaw County's Vic Village apartments: blue lounge chairs surround a firepit on a rooftop patio; sleek fitness rooms are fully equipped with workout machines; study rooms contain desks, tables and, of course, Wi-Fi; and there's a game room supplied with arcade and board games.

Your parents' dorm it isn't. Marketed as luxury housing for students, Vic Village North and South are just two of the several higher-end apartments near the University of Michigan campus, with other offerings including VERVE, Saga and The Legacy.

Developments like these are becoming increasingly common, not just in Ann Arbor, but in larger college towns across the country where developers are building housing equipped with private bedrooms, wellness spaces and high-end amenities aimed at students. This wave, primarily felt at schools with the highest enrollment levels,



Rooftop patios and other upscale amenities reflect changing expectations among students, some say. Others lament being priced out of housing.

has led to rents near the University of Michigan and Michigan State University that exceed \$2,000 per month per student in some buildings. Meanwhile, smaller schools such as Grand Valley State University are working to maintain more affordable housing options as they compete to attract students.

Michigan State University student Grace Eliya lives at The Abbott

in East Lansing and pays \$1,500 a month. Eliya said the appeal was the newness and the private space.

"I knew that I wanted my own kitchen and laundry room," Eliya said. "The apartment is newer, and it has full appliances. Overall, I think the price and paying for a nicer apartment was worth it for me."

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Election critics urge probes before 2026 vote

Unproven 2020 allegations still loom large before crucial midterms

BY CRAIG MAUGER
The Detroit News

Lansing — Some of the most vocal critics of Michigan's election system have said in recent weeks that they're either working with President Donald Trump's U.S. Department of Justice or asking for investigations into voting matters in the battleground state.

One lawyer has publicly suggested that Michigan's elections director might be under investigation, and an activist has said her group had been asked to create a report on Michigan's 2020 presidential election.

During a June 4 online meeting, Patrice Johnson, chairwoman of the organization Pure Integrity Michigan Elections, said the nearly 500-page report would be sent to the Justice Department, which is in charge of enforcing federal laws.

"We were asked basically to create a document about what happened in the 2020 elections in Michigan," Johnson said. "That's almost done, actually. It's getting very close to fruition."

She made the statement more than 2,000 days after Michiganians went to the polls in 2020.

Johnson didn't specify who sought the report. She didn't respond to a request for an interview. Her group's website said the organization is led by volunteers and launched after the

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Joel Angel Juarez / Getty Images

Sterile screwworm pupae are introduced in Texas to help suppress the maggots' ability to reproduce.

Flesh-eating maggot outbreak puts feds under scrutiny

BY ISAAC ARNSDORF AND LENA H. SUN
Washington Post

When health authorities found New World screwworm in a Maryland resident last August, alarmed beef industry leaders rushed to assess how to limit the market impact of a flesh-eating parasite best known for infesting cattle and other livestock, emails obtained by The Washington Post show — conversations that began six days before the U.S. Department of Agriculture publicly disclosed the case.

Now that the U.S. has 12 confirmed cases in cattle, goats, sheep and a dog in Texas and New Mexico, alarmed ranchers and local officials are questioning whether USDA is being transparent about the scale of the outbreak and doing everything possible to contain it.

Agriculture Secretary Brooke Rollins has publicly downplayed the danger and pointed fingers at the previous administration, even as experts say the reemergence of a grisly pest confined to South America for decades has exposed shortcomings in the government's ability to respond. Eradicating the outbreak requires targeted releases of sterile flies, but the U.S. won't have enough sterile flies until a new facility comes online next year at the earliest.

"This is not a simple show up, stamp out, depopulate and leave," said Dudley Hoskins, undersecretary of marketing and

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'This is reality': Parishioners wait for final word on Masses

BY MAX REINHART, MYESHA JOHNSON AND ANNE SNABES
The Detroit News

Westland — Three days after the Archdiocese of Detroit announced plans that could end weekend Masses at 90 parishes across southeast Michigan, churchgoers at one Wayne County parish worry the next announcement could be even worse: a closure.

The archdiocese is reorganizing its parishes into regional groupings and consolidating Mass schedules to address priest shortages, declining attendance, demographic shifts and

long-term financial sustainability.

"There's a number of parishes, including our own, that don't call for any weekend parishes," said Richard Asher after a Sunday morning Mass at St. Mary, Cause of Our Joy Catholic Church in Westland. "Follow those churches and I believe those churches are going to be closed."

On Thursday, the archdiocese released models for potential groupings for the final six of the 15 geographic planning areas associated with the restructuring. Up to 90 parishes could lose weekend Masses under the proposals.



Daniel Mears / The Detroit News

Archbishop Edward Weisenburger said he is hopeful the restructuring will lead to "vibrant faith communities, flourishing priests and sustainable, mission-ready parishes."

"I bet most of those churches, including ours, will be closed," Asher said. "I'm not so attached to my par-

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LOW 55



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