



EASIER ACCESS

MICHIGAN'S TALLEST WATERFALL USED TO BE ON PRIVATE PROPERTY. THEN THE STATE BOUGHT IT, BUT GETTING THERE WAS AN ISSUE. RECENT WORK NOW HAS THE SITE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC. **A2**

WASHINGTON

Trump asserts authority over public spaces in D.C.



President Donald Trump talks as he visits the Lincoln Memorial Reflecting Pool in Washington. *Mark Schiefelbein, AP*

From repainting the Lincoln Memorial pool to eyeing a public golf course, the president is reshaping the capital in his own image.

Steven Sloan *Associated Press*

A federal judge weighing the future of an expansive Washington park insisted this week she had no intention of becoming Amy Poehler, the actress who spent seven seasons memorably playing the head of a local parks and recreation department.

But President Donald Trump might be interested in the role.

Shortly after the United States and Iran exchanged fire on Thursday, Trump made a quick jaunt to the National Mall to review the Lincoln Memorial Reflecting Pool that he ordered repainted a color he describes as "American flag blue."

The project has been on his mind lately. During an hour-plus speech Monday to small-business owners, Trump spent about nine minutes talking about the paint job, detailing the granite floor and boasting that he whittled the renovation's cost to \$1.9 million from what, he said, was an initial \$350 million estimate.



Workers coat the Lincoln Memorial Reflecting Pool in a blue swimming pool surface ahead of America 250. *Julia Demaree Nikhinson, AP*

Trump's next project might be East Potomac Park, home to an affordable, accessible public golf course with views of the Washington Monument.

The Republican president has talked of transforming it into a posh "U.S. Open-caliber course." Signs were posted this week warning of a disruption and preservation advocates took the government to court

as debris dumped there from the White House East Wing demolition tested positive for lead.

Last week, the nonprofit that operates the course said it would continue managing the space until the National Park Service begins a "historic restoration."

Meanwhile, the White House told a planning agency that it would cost taxpayers at least \$7.5 million to follow through on Trump's plan to paint the granite Eisenhower Executive Office Building white.

And that was just one week in Washington's extreme makeover.

ALL THE PRESIDENT'S PROJECTS

Over the past year, Trump has bulldozed the East Wing to make way for a ballroom. His name was added to the facades of the U.S. Institute of Peace and the Kennedy Center, which he plans to close for a two-year renovation. His face adorns a banner at the Department of Justice's headquarters, among others. He is pushing for a triumphal arch near Arlington Cemetery and has closed parks, including Lafayette Square across from the White House, for a rehab.

Trump is guaranteeing himself a lasting imprint on a city in which he won just 6.5% of the vote in 2024. He is flexing extraordinary executive power and offering fresh insight into how he spends his time, perhaps a president's most valuable asset.

SEE WASHINGTON, A3

NEW LEGISLATION

Mobile home park laws could see first overhaul in 40 years

A bipartisan six-bill package would strengthen oversight of mobile home parks and expand protections for residents.

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LANSING — Michigan lawmakers are again trying to update the state's mobile home park laws, hoping to complete the first overhaul in nearly 40 years.

A bipartisan group of state senators introduced a six-bill package in late April that would strengthen oversight and expand protections for the state's 474,000 mobile home park residents.

"For too long, the laws governing these communities have not kept up with the realities residents face on the ground, from water shutoffs and rising lot rents to their entire community being sold out from under them," said sponsor state Sen. John Cherry, D-Flint.

Michigan has roughly 1,200 licensed manufactured housing communities with more than 140,000 homes, making it the 13th largest mobile home park state in the nation.

Advocates say it has become increasingly important to modernize the laws, as Michigan mobile home parks increasingly are bought up by large ownership groups and private investment firms.

The bill package marks the third time in five years that legislation has been introduced to update the state's 1987 mobile home park law, but two previous iterations failed to pass both chambers.

The latest round stems from a year of negotiations between lawmakers, industry leaders, resident advocates and the Michigan Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs, according to the bills' co-sponsors.

Cherry said the state's outdated laws have allowed "bad actors" to undercut responsible park owners.

"This package benefits both the folks who own communities and the folks who own homes and live inside communities," Cherry said.

SEE NEW LEGISLATION, A3



After a year of negotiations, Michigan lawmakers are once again trying to update the state's 1987 mobile home park law. *MLive.com files*

Boil-water advisory affects thousands in Oakland County

A 42-inch water main break is now under repair.

Peg McNichol *pmcnichol@mlive.com*

LAKE ORION — Schools are closed and restaurants, coffee shops, car washes and other businesses are dealing with a crisis after a 42-inch water main broke last week, leading to boil-water orders for parts of Auburn Hills, a few homes in Oakland Township, Orion Township and Rochester Hills.

Residents and businesses in Pontiac, Sylvan Lake and West Bloomfield have been asked to limit water usage until further notice to ease pressure on the water system while repairs are underway.

Great Lakes Water Authority is working

to repair the water main, which supplies an estimated 10,000 households in Lake Orion, but far more in terms of individual people and businesses affected.

The authority did not have a specific figure on Monday.

Joe Zimmer, who owns two Culver's restaurants in Lake Orion off Brown Road, shut down his restaurants on Sunday, Mother's Day, which is one of the busiest restaurant days of the year.

"This was one of the worst Mother's Day I've had in 60 years," he said Monday. "We just heard we may be able to open a week from today, but that's not confirmed. ... I've been in this business a long time and have a

little money saved for a rainy day, but I feel sorry for a lot of businesses that don't. But it is what it is."

Repairs will take an estimated two weeks — putting the timeline around Memorial Day weekend — depending on weather and other conditions.

Zimmer lives in Orion. He was lucky that some neighbors were able to bring him bottled water as he deals with the crisis, he said.

"I have great neighbors," he said. "I'm going by what (municipal officials) are telling us to do."

He said it makes sense to close businesses and schools for safety reasons as well.

SEE WATER MAIN BREAK, A3

