

Lansing State Journal

2 new national retailers eye Lansing Township



The future site of Chick-Fil-A on Oct. 13 near the Eastwood Towne Center in Lansing Township. The former Comerica Bank building will be demolished to make way for the restaurant. PHOTOS BY NICK KING/LANSING STATE JOURNAL

Chick-fil-A, Planet Fitness plan to open near Eastwood Towne Center

Rachel Greco
Lansing State Journal
USA TODAY NETWORK – MICHIGAN

LANSING TWP. – The retail and restaurant landscape near the Eastwood Towne Center is poised to gain two more businesses, both national chains.

Planet Fitness, a fitness center chain with three other gyms in the Lansing area, and Chick-fil-A, a fast-casual restaurant with locations in Okemos and Delta Township and a third planned in south Lansing, are coming to the township.

Here’s what you need to know about where and when they’ll open.

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The site at of a new Planet Fitness at The Heights building on Oct. 13.

‘Remorseful’ driver asks judge to honor plea deal

Ken Palmer
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ST. JOHNS – The woman who drove into a group of pedestrians last year along a rural Clinton County roadside, killing two of them, is remorseful and hopes a judge will adhere to a sentence agreement negotiated as part of a plea deal, her attorney said in a court document.

“(Ashley) Monroe is living with the pain of this tragedy,” attorney Edwar Zeineh wrote in a sentencing memorandum. “The loss and chaos she knows she caused is not lost on her. She is remorseful. For what it is worth, Ms. Monroe is extremely sorry for her actions and the loss of life and injury caused.”

Monroe, 36, of Perrinton, is scheduled to be sentenced Oct. 15 on one count of second-degree murder and eight counts of driving while intoxicated causing serious injury. The charges stemmed from a May 2024 crash on South Wacousta Road, at Gloria Miller Looking Glass Valley Park in Watertown Township.

Johnathan Esch, 30, a Lansing Township firefighter, and Daniel Harris, 42, were killed when Monroe’s vehicle crashed into a group of extended family members who had walked to the park from a nearby home. More than a dozen others were injured, with some suffering massive bone fractures, head trauma or other injuries that could have been life-threatening.

Monroe pleaded no contest in August, with the single murder count naming both victims. A sentencing agreement calls for her to receive a minimum of 30 years in prison. If 29th Circuit Court Judge Cori Barkman decides she can’t abide by the agreement, Monroe would be allowed to withdraw her no-contest pleas.

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A ‘day of profound joy’ in Israel

Families, residents cheer as hostages released

Kathryn Palmer, Zac Anderson, Michael Collins and Bart Jansen
USA TODAY

Israel celebrated the release of the remaining hostages taken by Hamas militants in the Oct. 7, 2023, attacks as the first phase in the U.S.-brokered ceasefire plan was met with joy around the world on Oct. 13.

Twenty Israeli hostages in Gaza were transferred to the International Committee of the Red Cross and returned home, according to the Israeli military. Almost 2,000 Palestinian prisoners were released by Israel as part of the ceasefire deal.

Cheers, cries and Hebrew songs rang out in Tel Aviv’s Hostage Square, where thousands of Israelis had gathered to celebrate the homecoming.

President Donald Trump traveled to the Middle East to greet the hostages as part of a whirlwind visit to Israel and Egypt while back home the U.S. government entered its 13th day in a shutdown.

“This is the historic dawn of a new Middle East,” Trump said in his remarks to the Knesset, Israel’s legislature, declaring it at the start of a 65-minute speech a “day of profound joy.”

The release of Israeli hostages held in Gaza began at 1 a.m. ET on Oct. 13. Hamas also announced that on Oct. 13, it would release the bodies of four of the 28 dead Israeli hostages held in Gaza.

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Released hostage Evyatar David reacts upon arriving at the Rabin Medical Center-Beilinson Hospital in Petah Tikva, Israel, on Oct. 13. STOYAN NENOV/REUTERS

