

Michigan's premier motorcoach connection between East Lansing, Ann Arbor, Brighton & Detroit Metro Airport.

MichiganFlyer e-News June 2024



Meet Driver Jacquelin "Quay" Bonner-Norris

One of our newest Michigan Flyer drivers, Jacquelin Bonner-Norris, who goes by his nickname "Quay," passed Indian Trails' six-week intensive driver training course and

has been on the job since last October.

Still, he continues to look for input from our veteran drivers. “That saying, ‘You can’t teach an old dog new tricks’—I don’t believe it,” says Quay. “I’m always asking senior drivers for their knowledge and for answers to any questions I might have. This helps me improve in doing my job.”

A native of Flint, Mich., Quay graduated from Flint Northern High School and attended Mott Community College. He was working as a janitor at Flint’s Hurley Hospital—cleaning and sanitizing operating rooms after surgeries—when his brother-in-law suggested he check out Indian Trails, our parent company.

“I’d never heard of Indian Trails until I looked it up,” he said. “A driver’s position offered more money and more quality time with my family. So, I thought, ‘Why not apply and see if I like it?’” Coming up on his first year with Michigan Flyer, Quay is glad he made the switch.

Thorough Training Comes First

When he began our driver training program, Quay already had a chauffeur’s license, but the largest vehicle he’d driven was a 12-passenger van.

“Indian Trails’ training was so interesting,” he said. “They teach you everything from the components of your bus, to how to watch the road, create distance, make wide turns, maneuver through city streets, offer great customer service and more.”

Quay said he was so intent on doing a good job and passing his road test that he practiced another two hours a day after class was over. “It was still a little nerve-wracking when the test day came.”

Now, his early morning shifts with Michigan Flyer have become more like second nature to him. One of the biggest perks of his job is meeting the passengers on each of his shifts.

“I love being around people and being able to hear their stories,” Quay says. “I can talk to anyone and it’s also fun to meet people from different countries. I had one passenger who gave me a loaf of bread she’d made from her culture. That was so nice.”

A Service That Matters

Since Indian Trails was new to him, so was the popularity of our Michigan Flyer service between East Lansing, Brighton, Ann Arbor and Detroit Metropolitan Airport.

“Our passengers love this service and they’re so glad it’s available,” says Quay. “It’s a great alternative to driving to the airport. It saves them money on gas and parking, it reduces their stress, and they appreciate the comfort of our buses.”

Like all of our drivers, Quay is intent on providing a smooth, safe ride for the passengers on his bus: “I feel almost like a pilot of an airplane. I’m the one in control and I have lives in my hands. I’m going to do everything I can to ensure their safety.”

In his downtime, Quay loves spending time with his family and pursuing his personal passions of music (he plays the drums), video games, and sports. When it's time for work, he enjoys the people he works with, and the fact that Indian Trails has a 114-year history in Michigan. "That's really something, how long we've been around. We're beating out everyone else."



Travel Alerts



Reduced Michigan Flyer Schedule on July 4th

Due to the [Firecracker 5K and Mile Fun Run on Thursday, July 4, in Ann Arbor](#), followed by the annual Jaycees Fourth of July Parade, not all of our regularly scheduled roundtrips between Ann Arbor and Detroit Metro Airport will be operated on Independence Day. We will NOT be operating Eastbound routes #8008 or #8010, nor Westbound routes #8003, #8005, #8007. [See our Schedule here](#). You can easily check which of our runs will be operating with the "[Book a Trip](#)" feature on our website. *Note too that D2A2 will not be operating on July 4.*



D2A2 Express Bus Expands Summer Service

Reminder: The popular [D2A2 Express Bus](#) that makes frequent daily runs between Ann Arbor's Blake Transit Center and Detroit's Grand Circus Park is currently operating a special "midnight summer run" from Detroit to Ann Arbor. While the usual last run is at 11 p.m., every Friday and Saturday night through Labor Day weekend an

additional run will depart at 11:55 p.m. This gives visitors more time to enjoy the nighttime attractions of Downtown Detroit.



New Signage at Detroit Metro Airport

If you're looking to find Michigan Flyer at DTW—or help a friend do so—please note that the airport is changing its wayfinding signs so that we're now included in the category of "Public Transit."

While that may be helpful, your best bet for finding us at the **McNamara Terminal** is to simply follow signs for "Ticketing/Check-In." They'll guide you to our location on Level 3 (a.k.a. Departures Level). Our stop is at the exterior doors marked "International Ticketing/Check-In, Air France, Aeromexico." Nearby, you should see an "AirRide Route 787" sign, which indicates you're in the right place.

At the **Evans Terminal**, we pick up and drop off passengers at Stall #1 of the Ground Transportation Center.

Top Coming Events—We Can Get You There!



East Lansing **Summer Solstice Jazz Festival**

The 28th annual festival jazzes up downtown East Lansing on Friday, June 21, from 5:30 to 10 p.m. and Saturday, June 22, from 2:30 to 10 p.m.

The event uses two stages: the Al and Beth Cafagna Founders' Stage in front of Harper's off of Albert Ave., and the MSU Outreach and Engagement Education Stage near the Ann Street Plaza and M.A.C. Ave. (next to Michigan Flyer headquarters at the East Lansing Marriott).

The event usually showcases some Grammy award winners and other nationally recognized performers, and this year is no exception. [See the performer lineup here.](#) Endea Owens is a regular on "Late Night with Stephen Colbert," and Kurt Elling is a multiple Grammy award winner. Fun for the whole family, the Jazz Festival also includes a magician, face painting, and an "instrument petting zoo." Best of all, it's FREE!

East Lansing **Kommuna Lux - A Benefit for Ukraine**

Come fall in love with Odesa, Ukraine—the Pearl of the Black Sea—as Kommuna Lux brings you the heritage music of their beloved hometown.



Kommuna Lux stirs the crowd with a nostalgic, high-energy Big Band sound from the days of speakeasies and rum runners. These playful, passionate, conservatory-trained musicians have so much fun on stage that you'll get caught up in their joy. Catch them at 7:30 p.m. on Saturday, June 29, at UrbanBeat, 1213 Turner St., Lansing. [Tickets \\$15 + \\$1 fee.](#) (Note that UrbanBeat plans to donate the proceeds to help ease suffering in war-torn Ukraine.)

You can get to UrbanBeat from Michigan Flyer's location at the East Lansing Marriott in about 45 minutes on CATA buses (see [CATA's trip planner](#) to pick your route). Or, you can get there in roughly 12 minutes by car or Uber.

Check out more local coming events with the Choose Lansing calendar: www.lansing.org/events.

Ann Arbor Ann Arbor Summer Festival

A community tradition since 1984, the “A2SF” attracts an audience of over 80,000 people with some 200 concerts, art exhibitions, kids activities, and film screenings.



Recurring daily from now through June 30, the festival presents free “Top of the Park” open-air events, movies, and family attractions along the beautiful U-M campus, plus [ticketed indoor events](#). Explore this year’s happenings with the [A2SF calendar here](#).

Ann Arbor Ann Arbor Art Fair 2024



Drawing nearly half a million attendees over three days, it’s the largest juried art fair in the nation, with works by about 1,000 artists displayed (and for sale) over 30 city blocks downtown. You’ll find art in virtually every medium—handcrafted ceramics, jewelry, leather and metalworks, painting, photography, sculpture, wood, and more. In addition, there will be dining and sidewalk sales, plus [live music on three stages](#) and [plenty of art activities](#).

The annual art fair is actually three independently juried, nonprofit art fairs in one (Ann Arbor Street Art Fair, The Original; Ann Arbor Summer Art Fair; and Ann Arbor State Street Art Fair). They all take place concurrently on Thursday and Friday, July 18 and 19, 10 a.m. – 9 p.m., and Saturday, July 20, 10 a.m. – 8 p.m. [Click here to download a map of the event](#). FREE and fun for all ages.

For more entertainment in and around A2, see the Ann Arbor Area Convention & Visitors Bureau calendar of coming events: www.annarbor.org/events/.



Brighton

Michigan Challenge Balloonfest

The 39th annual balloonfest features carnival rides, kid attractions, fireworks, and the [spectacular daily balloon launches](#), fly-ins, and the [popular evening Glow](#).

The [event schedule](#) spans three days—Friday, June 28, 2 p.m.-8:45 p.m.; Saturday June 29, 6:30 a.m.-10 p.m.; Sunday, June 30, 6 a.m.-8 p.m.—and is hosted by the Howell Area Chamber of Commerce. Admission is \$5 per day per person, but free for children three and under. The event takes place at the [Howell High School Complex](#), 1200 W. Grand River Rd., Howell, Mich. That's about a 20-minute drive West on I-96 from our location at the Brighton Meijer. Parking is free.

Brighton, like other communities in Livingston County, offers a multitude of events to delight visitors of all ages. Explore them with the Livingston County Convention & Visitors Bureau events calendar: visitlivingstoncounty.com/events/.

Detroit

Journey & Def Leppard 2024 Stadium Tour

Two of rock's most iconic bands—Def Leppard & Journey—perform at Comerica Park on Thursday, July 18, at 6 p.m.—and they'll be joined by the Steve Miller Band for an amazing musical evening. All three have been named to the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. Standard admission [tickets](#) \$59.50-\$369.50+ fee.



Since 1973, Journey has earned 19 top 40 singles, 25 gold and platinum albums, and has sold over 100 million albums globally. Their Greatest Hits album is certified 15 times-platinum, and their song "Don't Stop Believin'" has been streamed over one billion times.

Def Leppard's career includes numerous hit singles, ground-breaking multi-platinum albums, and more than 110 million albums sold worldwide. These include two all-time best-sellers—Pyromania and Hysteria—which feature such hits as "Rock of Ages", "Pour Some Sugar on Me" and "Foolin'."

The Steve Miller Band has also been a major influence on rock music. Their Greatest Hits 1974-78 is among the 25 best-selling albums of all time, including tunes like "Jungle Love," "Take the Money and Run," and "Rock'n' Me."

NOTE: [The D2A2 Express Bus](#) from Ann Arbor's Blake Transit Center (BTC) to Detroit's Grand Circus Park (1508 Park Ave.) can get you to within a half mile or 5-minute walk of Comerica Park.

To learn more about what's happening in Detroit, check out the Detroit Convention & Visitors Bureau calendar of coming events: visitdetroit.com/events/.

Sample Airfares for Late Summer Getaways



If you're thinking of a vacation getaway before K-12 schools and colleges resume classes, now is the time to start planning. Using Skyscanner.com, we spot-checked prices for domestic roundtrips originating at Detroit Metro Airport (DTW) on Friday, Aug. 9, and returning on Saturday, Aug. 17. Among our search criteria: Flights had to be nonstop in each direction, and the return flight had to arrive at DTW in time for passengers to catch our last run at 9:45 p.m. or 10:00 p.m. to Ann Arbor, Brighton, and East Lansing.

NOTE: Lower prices than these are surely available for anyone who is flexible about the dates of travel, or willing to change planes once or more enroute to their destination. Our sample economy roundtrip fares include taxes but not necessarily baggage or other "extras."

Philadelphia, PA (PHL) Spirit \$77
Minneapolis, MN (MSP) Spirit \$82
Phoenix, AZ (PHX) Frontier \$87
Nashville, TN (BNA) Spirit \$97
Boston, MA (BOS) Spirit \$109
New York, NY (LGA) Spirit \$123
Atlanta, GA (ATL) Frontier \$125
Orlando, FL (MCO) Spirit \$166
Las Vegas, NV (LAS) Frontier \$167
Washington, DC (DCA) Delta \$169
Dallas, TX (DFW) American \$172
Los Angeles, CA (LAX) Spirit \$178
Fort Myers, FL (RSW) Spirit \$187
Denver, CO (DEN) Frontier \$197
Tampa, FL (TPA) Spirit \$198
New Orleans, LA (MSY) Delta \$219

Houston, TX (IAH) United \$236
Raleigh, NC (RDU) Delta \$239
Miami, FL (MIA) Delta \$244
Charlotte, NC (CLT) American \$297
Providence, RI (PVD) Delta \$299
Des Moines, IA (DSM) Delta \$339
Austin, TX (AUS) Delta \$359
San Antonio, TX (SAT) Delta \$419
San Diego, CA (SAN) Delta \$459
Seattle, WA (SEA) Alaska \$464
Burlington, VT (BTV) Delta \$579
Salt Lake City, UT (SLC) Delta \$599
San Francisco, CA (SFO) Delta \$599
Portland, OR (PWM) Delta \$894
Anchorage, AK (ANC) Delta \$909
Honolulu, HI (HNL) Delta \$1,595



Tips for Smarter Travel

Easily Change Your Own MI Flyer Reservations at this [Link](#)

Where's Your Bus? Find Out with Our Real-Time Tracker

Please, Help Others by Reviewing Us Online

Kindly take a moment to help others understand how our service might improve their travels. Simply visit one of these websites to write a brief review about your experience with Michigan Flyer. Thank you!

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Happy 248th Birthday, America!

On July 4, 1776—248 years ago—the Founding Fathers of America's original 13 colonies adopted the Declaration of Independence. Drafted largely by Thomas Jefferson, it proclaims freedom from the oppressive rule of Great Britain.

Including this famous passage—"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness"—it ends with fighting words: "And for the support of this Declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes and our sacred Honor."

Since then, July 4 has been celebrated with fireworks, parades, picnics and concerts as America's Birthday!

Fascinating facts about the founding of our great nation:

- When the Declaration of Independence was signed, the fighting had been ongoing for more than a year—since April 1775. That's when local militiamen fought British soldiers in the Battles of Lexington and Concord, Massachusetts, marking the "shot heard round the world" that started the Revolutionary War.
- George Washington, who would become America's first president, did not sign the Declaration along with other Founding Fathers in Philadelphia. He was in what's now Manhattan, N.Y., commanding the Continental Army as it prepared to battle the British again. On July 9, he received a copy of the Declaration from John Hancock and read it to his ecstatic troops, some of whom promptly pulled down a nearby statue of Britain's King George III.
- In 1778, France joined the war on the side of the colonists. Its assistance helped the Continental Army to force the British surrender at Yorktown, Va., in 1781.

Great Britain formally recognized the independence of the United States in the Treaty of Paris on Sept. 3, 1783.

- John Adams, America's second president, and Thomas Jefferson, our third president, were both Founding Fathers of America. As young men, they were political rivals. In later life, they became close friends. Both died on the same day—July 4, 1826, our 50th Independence Day.

Why Drive?

Booking is easy, click here to view schedules.



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www.michiganflyer.com

