



MICHIGAN'S PREMIER MOTORCOACH CONNECTION
BETWEEN EAST LANSING, ANN ARBOR,
BRIGHTON & DETROIT METRO AIRPORT



e-news

MARCH 2022



Last Chance to Tell a Short Story, Win a \$500 Gift Card!

April 22 at 5 p.m. is your last chance to enter our current "Great Connections" short story contest and win the \$500 gift card Top Prize or one of four \$100 gift card Runner-up Prizes. Plus, all winners will have their stories and photos published in our E-news for the enjoyment of fellow passengers.

Just submit your story in 250 words or less [here at SurveyMonkey](#). Entries will be judged by Michigan Flyer staff and our creative consultants, based on their judgment of which stories best fit the contest theme. We'll notify the winners after that by phone or email. Good luck!

Meet Driver Doug Hamlin

Before he became a driver for Indian Trails, Doug Hamlin had 20 years of experience behind the wheel of big rigs for a commercial trucking company. Then the economy came crashing down in the Great Recession of 2008.

Those freight trucks he'd been driving mostly carried parts to General Motors and Chrysler assembly plants. But with the automakers suddenly scrambling to survive, Doug found himself out of a job.



Doug Hamlin

"During that period, I worked for a couple of iffy companies," he recalls. "Then a good friend suggested I apply at Indian Trails," the parent company of Michigan Flyer.

Before long, Doug was piloting regular bus routes to Chicago, and taking charter groups on excursions across the country. Nearly a dozen years passed before he moved over to Michigan Flyer last September.

Destined to Drive

Doug grew up in the country near Owosso, Mich. After graduating from Corunna High School, he joined the U.S. Army. During his six years of military service, he

was stationed in such places as the Korean Demilitarized Zone, and the crossing point known as "Checkpoint Charlie" between East and West Berlin during the Cold War.

"While I was in the service, I drove every kind of vehicle there was except a tank," he says. So, rather than enlist, Doug decided it was time to fulfill his career dream: "Even as a young kid, I'd always wanted to be a truck driver."

Although experience gave him a bit of a leg up when he began Indian Trails' five-week driver training program, Doug was surprised when he first saw one of our motorcoaches up close. "I was very intimidated by its size, even though I'd driven 53-foot tractor trailers," he says.

Those initial qualms disappeared quickly. By the time Doug took his first solo trip to Chicago, he felt quite confident in his driving abilities: "It's a great feeling when all that training becomes automatic."

Besides his regular Chicago bus runs, Doug's charter bus trips carried passengers to such favorite Midwest destinations as Frankenmuth, Mich., and Mackinac Island. He also took the wheel for K-12 school field trips, and for sports teams traveling to and from competitions.

Doug says he's become more of a people person over the years: "You don't have anyone talking to you when you drive a freight truck, as I did for a long time. So, it's really different when you have passengers. I've been lucky to have good folks on my regular Chicago runs, and now on the Flyer, where most passengers are happy to be either going somewhere fun or heading home once again."

It's always a treat, too, when new Michigan Flyer passengers let him know how delighted they are by the service and care-free ride, especially to Detroit Metro Airport.



Driver Doug Hamlin with his 1969 Mercury Montego MX

Reflecting on the Rear View

Among the top tips that were reinforced in his training program—and that Doug would pass on to other drivers—are that "mirrors are your friend—you should always be checking them, scanning the roadway, and anticipating any potential problems."

Doug also appreciates the high visual vantage point he has from behind the wheel of an over-the-road motorcoach: "Sometimes I think I drive my bus better than my own car."

While that may be true of his regular car, Doug takes special care of the vintage, cream white, 1969 Mercury Montego MX that he bought years ago in Arizona and had reupholstered with copper-colored seats. A classic-car aficionado, he likes to travel to car shows in his downtime, as well as add to his collection of more than 1,000 vinyl LP records. “I used to be a DJ for weddings and private parties,” he notes.

Becoming part of Indian Trails—and now its Michigan Flyer subsidiary—was “one of the best moves I ever made,” Doug says. “The company atmosphere is great and the people are wonderful. It’s not just a job. It’s a lifestyle that’s become even more family-oriented over the years for everyone involved.”



Travel Alerts

Book Seats Early: Here Comes Family Spring Break

Recently, it was our privilege to transport thousands of college students safely to and from Detroit Metro Airport (DTW) for spring break. Next come flocks of families with K-12 students who are heading off on their own spring break. This means March 25 to April 4 will be another peak travel period for Michigan Flyer-AirRide. So it’s smart to reserve your seats early if you plan to ride with us around this time.

Ann Arbor Hash Bash

Held each year since 1972 (though as a virtual event due to COVID-19 since 2020), Ann Arbor’s Hash Bash returns in person for its 50th anniversary celebration in 2022. Starting with the Hash Bash Cup trade show on Friday, April 1, it runs through Sunday, April 3. The main event is a “high noon” gathering at the University of Michigan Diag on Saturday, April 2. Speakers include poet and cannabis advocate John Sinclair, Washtenaw County Prosecutor Eli Savit, U.S. Rep. Debbie Dingell and others discussing the cannabis industry and marijuana laws. Some interesting [Hash Bash history](#) [here](#) and [here](#) and [here](#).



PLEASE NOTE: Because of traffic restrictions due to the Hash Bash and related [Monroe Street Fair](#), four of Michigan Flyer’s **eastbound** runs (#8014, #8016, #8018 and #8020) will not stop at the Blake Transit Center that Saturday. And neither will three eastbound runs on Sunday (#8006, #8008 and #8010), due partly to the [Goddess Run](#). However, all **westbound** runs will still stop at the BTC on the weekend. [See our schedule here](#).

Big Name Change at Detroit Metro Airport

On April 4, 2022, DTW will change the name of its North Terminal to the “Warren Cleage Evans Terminal”—(or Evans Terminal, for short)—in honor of his more than 52 years of public service to the people of Wayne County, Mich.

Since 1970, Evans—a law enforcement officer, lawyer, and politician—has served as deputy, undersheriff, and sheriff for the county; director of its community justice department; chief of special operations for the prosecutor; Detroit Police Chief; and Wayne County Executive, a post to which he’s been elected twice. Along



Warren C. Evans

the way, he has also served as a professor of law and criminal justice at Wayne County Community College and U-M, and president of a legal consulting firm. He earned his bachelor's degree at Madonna University, master's degree at University of Detroit Mercy, and juris doctorate at Detroit College of Law.

PLEASE NOTE: As the airport updates its signage during the next few weeks, be aware that some signs will reflect the new name, while others won't.



Travel Mask Mandate Extended Thru April 18

Based on recommendations of the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC), the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) has extended its directive that travelers must wear face masks on public transportation and in transportation hubs. So, it's not over 'til it's over. Please continue to be patient, kind, and considerate of other passengers and Michigan Flyer staff members.

Masks are required until April 18 for individuals across all transportation networks throughout the United States, including at airports, onboard commercial aircraft, on over-the-road buses, and on commuter bus and rail systems.



Top Coming Events—We Can Get You There!

East Lansing

 [Hamilton](#). Featuring a score that blends hip-hop, jazz, R&B and Broadway, Hamilton has taken the story of American founding father Alexander Hamilton and created a revolutionary moment in theatre—a musical that has had a profound impact on culture, politics, and education. It has won Tony®, Grammy®, and Olivier Awards, the Pulitzer Prize for Drama, and an unprecedented special citation from the Kennedy Center Honors. See it March 29-April 10, 2022 (times vary), at the Wharton Center for Performing Arts, 750 E. Shaw Lane East Lansing, on the Michigan State

University campus. [Tickets \\$49-\\$249](#).

Check out more local coming events with the Greater Lansing Convention & Visitors Bureau calendar: <http://www.lansing.org/events>.



events: <https://www.visitannarbor.org/splash/events>.



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: <https://visittlivingstoncounty.com/events/>.



distance of D2A2's stop in Detroit. When the [D2A2 schedule](#) coincides with [Michigan Flyer's schedule](#) at the

Ann Arbor

[60th Ann Arbor Film Festival](#) will take place in-person & online March 22-March 27 at the Michigan Theater, 603 E. Liberty Street, Ann Arbor. It's the oldest avant-garde and experimental film festival in North America, founded in 1963. Internationally recognized as a premiere forum for independent filmmakers and artists, the six-day festival presents more than 180 films from over 20 countries of all lengths and genres, including experimental, animation, documentary, fiction, and performance-based works. [Festival passes \\$60-\\$125](#).

For more entertainment in and around A2, see the Ann Arbor Convention & Visitors Bureau calendar of coming

Brighton

[ARTrageous](#). With over 3,000 shows performed around the world, ARTrageous is a one-of-a-kind, interactive art and music experience that has CBS raving "Go see this show!" Audiences interact and delight as a team of accomplished, multi-talented artists paint at electric speed, creating giant works of art, right before their eyes ... all while accompanied by live musical performances, powerful vocals and high-energy creative choreography. Experience it at 7:30 p.m. on April 8 Brighton Center for the Performing Arts, 7878 Brighton Road, Brighton. Admission \$42 adult, \$36 senior, \$28 student.

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: <https://visittlivingstoncounty.com/events/>.

Detroit

[DINO-Light](#). Formerly known as Darwin the Dinosaur, Lightwire Theater brings DINO-Light to life on stage with this original storyline. A famous scientist with magic powers brings a friendly dinosaur to life – but the dinosaur wanders away! On his adventure, he discovers a world full of creatures that light up the darkness and help him find the true meaning of love. Music Hall Main Stage, 350 Madison Street, downtown Detroit. Catch it at 3 p.m. on April 24. [Tickets \\$10-\\$20](#).

PLEASE NOTE: The D2A2 Express Bus from Ann Arbor's Blake Transit Center (BTC) to Detroit's Grand Circus Park can get Ann Arbor-area residents to and from the event listed above. It's within easy walking

BTC, it's also possible for East Lansing and Brighton residents to travel by motorcoach for some of these performances, too.

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



Stress-Reducing Travel Tips

- [!\[\]\(065aacad479feea1b3f501fa02b79a7a_img.jpg\) Change Your Reservations in Two Quick Steps](#)
- [!\[\]\(f90d8b6badff022f4fa9e71b17a20969_img.jpg\) Know How to Find us at DTW's McNamara Terminal](#)
- [!\[\]\(aedc732acbf023768f1c9cdaebdbc316_img.jpg\) Invest in Travel Insurance for Peace of Mind](#)
- [!\[\]\(76d395b5ba40c2fcb8efc1d8802b90f2_img.jpg\) Download Our Free App to Track Your Bus in Real Time](#)



Customer Comments

"The bus is always on time unless there's traffic, which is not something the company can control. The drivers are courteous, professional and safe. And best of all they are very accommodating. One trip I accidentally scheduled one bus later than I was intending. I realized my mistake as I was waiting in the Meijer parking lot in Brighton 12 minutes before the scheduled time. I called the dispatcher and she was very friendly and helpful. She was able to contact the driver and have the bus swing in and pick me up. That's service! I use this service quite often and highly recommend it if you're traveling to and from DTW Metro."

—Mark D., San Francisco, Calif.

Help Others by Reviewing Us Online

Please take a moment to visit one of the websites below to let others know about your Michigan Flyer-AirRide experience and help them to understand how our service might improve their travels.





Help Wanted: Ex-Military Drivers

Do you have friends or family members with military experience who are looking for civilian careers? If so, please let them know that Michigan Flyer and its parent company, Indian Trails, proudly support former military personnel in transitioning to careers as professional motorcoach operators.

This includes Reserve or National Guard members, veterans of the Armed Forces, and those returning from active duty. We value the training, skills, experience,

responsibility and discipline that military drivers bring to us.

Indian Trails (which staffs Michigan Flyer with professional drivers) pays a starting hourly rate of \$20.40, plus a \$3,000 sign-on bonus, offers a great 4-5 week PAID training program, and operates Michigan's newest and largest fleet of motorcoaches. Full-time drivers also receive:

- Two weeks of paid time off in the first year
- Medical, dental, vision and life insurance
- 401(k) retirement program with employer match
- Annual safety bonus
- Annual employee recognition banquet
- Meal allowance on multi-day trips
- Paid accommodations for multi-day trips

What's more, it's easier, quicker, and less expensive for experienced military drivers to obtain Commercial Driver's Licenses (CDLs), thanks to the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration. The FMCSA's Military Skills Test Waiver Program allows drivers with two years' experience in safely operating heavy military vehicles to obtain a CDL without taking a state driving test (skills test). The program is available in every state, and the [waiver application can be downloaded here](#).

The requirements and application for entering the Indian Trails bus driver training program can also be found online by [clicking any of these openings](#). It takes a special person to be a professional bus driver. To us and to our passengers, they're truly heroes of the road. Learn more about the job [here](#).

A certified veteran-friendly employer, Indian Trails highly encourages both men and women to apply.

Happy Earth Day!

Did you know? Less than 50 years ago, a factory could belch toxic smoke into the air or dump poisonous waste into a stream and nothing could be done about it. Pollution was legal. Around the globe, smog grew thick and deadly, pollution caused developmental delays in children, and some species of life became extinct due to unrestrained use of pesticides.

That all began to change after the first [Earth Day](#) on April 22, 1970, which drew 20 million people in cities across America to protest pollution. Congress



responded by creating the Environmental Protection Agency and passing the Clean Air Act, Clean Water Act, and Endangered Species Act.

This year, more than one billion people in 192 countries will participate in Earth Day to help prevent climate change disasters and promote environmental sustainability.

While government and corporations can help save the planet, the personal choices of individuals can be equally effective. For example, you could participate in a cleanup, make it a habit to reduce plastic pollution, and ...

Simply Travel Smarter

Transportation is the biggest source of carbon emissions in the United States, particularly car travel. We chose “Why Drive” as our Michigan Flyer slogan for a reason—and it’s not just because gas prices are higher than usual lately. Just by riding with us, our passengers make a big difference in conserving energy, decreasing pollution, and easing congestion on our highways. By taking advantage of motorcoach transportation like ours, you might just help save an ice cap or two. That’s because each of our motorcoaches:

- ✍ Exceeds EPA standards on air pollutants (85% fewer CO2 emissions per passenger mile for each person who rides instead of driving alone).
- ✍ Achieves high fuel economy (184 passenger miles per gallon).
- ✍ Has the capacity to remove 50 cars from the highway, further reducing air pollution, traffic congestion, and our nation’s dependence on foreign oil.

In fact, the Union of Concerned Scientists [confirms that motorcoaches are the greenest travel option of all](#)—compared with planes, trains, and automobiles—whether it’s one, two, or four passengers traveling 100, 500, or 1,000+ miles.

**All of us at Michigan Flyer
wish you a joyous Passover and Easter,
plus safe travels always!**

Why Drive?

Booking is easy, [click here](#) to view schedules on



Michigan Flyer
333 Albert Street - Suite 214 | East Lansing, MI 48823
www.michiganflyer.com



follow us on Facebook and Twitter