



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



e-news

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Lauria Schultz

Meet Award-Winning Driver Lauria Schultz

When her children were small, Lauria Schultz took a part-time job at the local McDonald's in Owosso, Mich., to earn a little extra money. She particularly enjoyed the interactions with customers during her shift at the counter.

Once her children became older, Lauria found herself contemplating a move to a full-time job, and that's when serendipity stepped in. Her manager "suggested checking out Indian Trails [our parent company] and applying to become a driver—and that's what I did in 2012," says Lauria. "When I applied, I was told I'd be gone a bunch of the time driving the routes, but my

youngest had just graduated from high school, so that was fine."

In her decade+ with the company, Lauria, who now drives for Michigan Flyer, has been repeatedly honored with the Cora Taylor Safe Driving Award, presented annually to Indian Trails drivers who complete a full year without a preventable accident. The award is named for the company's co-founder, who became the first female licensed chauffeur in the United States after she and her husband, Wayne, founded Indian Trails in 1910.

It's a remarkable accomplishment for Lauria and the other drivers honored again in 2022, considering the thousands of miles they drive annually, often in harsh weather, and alongside countless unsafe drivers with whom they share the roads.



Experience Counts

After she completed our six-week, intensive training program for new drivers, Lauria says she felt confident about what she learned. “But the best part comes when you’re done with the program and out on your own, learning by doing and gaining experience.”

In her first years with Indian Trails, Lauria served as a driver on some of its regular daily routes throughout Michigan and beyond. She also filled in on group charter trips, and had a seven-month stint with Michigan Flyer before she joined us full-time driver in 2021.

Interacting with passengers is what Lauria loves best about the job. “One of the top things we’re taught is to be nice to everyone. That’s easy for me. In my previous job, I was used to interacting daily with the public. I tend to talk with people like they’re folks I know. And sometimes, they share a little bit about their lives.”

Staying On Time

Lauria makes it a point to arrive early for her shift each day “so I can engage in some small talk with my passengers and no one feels rushed. But I also pay close attention to our schedule, so we get off exactly on time,” she says. “Lots of passengers are heading to

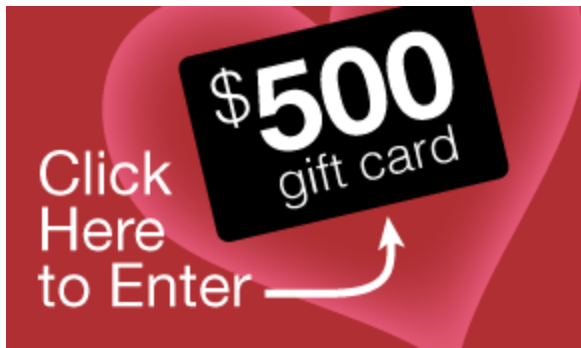
Detroit Metro to catch a flight and they can’t be late. If I have a run that’s scheduled to start in East Lansing at 2 p.m., then that’s when I’m heading out. I want to get them to their destination safely and on time.”

Lauria, born and raised in Vernon, Mich., was unaware of the company’s 113-year-old history in nearby Owosso—or about the Flyer—until she began working at Indian Trails. “It was amazing to learn about the start of the company, and how it grew and changed with the times—like creating a much-needed shuttle service to Detroit Metro Airport.”

She also enjoys the variety of passengers who board her bus, and the company’s atmosphere. “The passengers are typically so happy to be on the bus, and the staff is so nice to work with. For me, it’s way better than sitting at a desk every day.”

Reminder: Your Short Story Could Win a Big Prize!

Don’t miss your chance to win a \$500 gift card Top Prize, or one of five \$100 gift card Runner-up Prizes! All you have to do to enter our new “Love Connections” contest is tell a short—and true—story about how Michigan Flyer helped connect you with a person, place or adventure dear to your heart. In addition to the gift card, all winners will have their stories and photos published in our E-news for the enjoyment of fellow passengers.



It doesn't get much easier: Submit your story of up to 300 words [here at SurveyMonkey](#) between now and May 22. We'll notify the winners sometime after that by phone or email. Entries will be judged by Michigan Flyer staff and creative consultants, based on their judgment of which stories best fit the contest theme. Good luck!



Travel Alerts

Ann Arbor Hash Bash & Goddess Race

The 52nd annual [Hash Bash](#) is again expected to draw thousands of cannabis celebrants to the University of Michigan campus on Saturday, April 1, from noon to 5 p.m. Due to related traffic congestion, only two of Michigan Flyer's **eastbound** runs (#8002 and #8004) and one **westbound** run (#8003) will stop at Blake Transit Center that day.

The next morning's [Goddess Run](#) (5K, 10K, 1-Mile Fun Run on Sunday, April 2) will also cause road closures. So, while most of our Ann Arbor schedules will operate normally, three **eastbound** runs (#8006, #8008 and #8010) will **not** stop at Blake Transit Center. [See our full schedule here](#). You can also use the "Book a Trip" feature on our website to see which runs we'll be

operating on a given day.



Coming Soon: "Hytch" a Ride with Michigan Flyer

Ready for a new way to connect with Michigan Flyer at the East Lansing Marriott straight from your door? If so, then you may be pleased to learn that we're developing a "Hytch" PILOT project offering curb-to-curb ride share service for passengers who live or work in wide area around Lansing and East Lansing. Hytch is funded in part by a competitive Michigan Mobility grant to make available Hytch-branded vehicles with experienced drivers for travelers who buy their Michigan Flyer

tickets online. Hytch promises to be a popular alternative to driving yourself, getting a ride from family or friends, calling a taxi, etc. Watch your email for an announcement about the launch of Hytch before long!

Protect Yourself from Hackers When Traveling

With the rebound of tourism after three years of COVID-19, hackers are increasingly targeting the travel and



hospitality industries. The victims include airlines, airports, and companies like MGM Resorts, InterContinental Hotels, and Marriott International, along with their customers.

The cybercriminals often use malware called remote access trojans (RATs) to access reservation systems, steal data, and ripoff customers' money. Mainly they target credit cards and personally identifiable information from passports, IDs, and travel itineraries. This data is then used for fraudulent purchases, identity theft, ransom threats, and resale. For example, a U.S. passport can fetch as much as \$3,500 on the dark web.

Fortunately, if you travel with a connected device like a laptop, smartphone, or tablet, there are ways to stay safe from hackers:

- ✍ Before traveling, back up sensitive data to an external device or to the cloud.
- ✍ Change passwords frequently, using a different one for each account, plus a password management app to keep track of them all.
- ✍ Set up two-factor authentication on every account possible. (For example, after entering a password to login, you must also answer to secret question or provide a fingerprint or face ID.)
- ✍ Avoid using public WiFi to send important information. Hackers are known to set up fake networks with names like "Starbucks_Guest_WiFi" to trick people into sharing sensitive data.
- ✍ Invest in a virtual private network (VPN) service for your devices. Through an app or browser, a VPN encrypts data and files transferred through the internet so they cannot be seen by hackers. Some popular VPNs offered at low monthly subscription rates include [ExpressVPN](#), [NordVPN](#), [IPVanish VPN](#), [PureVPN](#). Antivirus software makers like [Norton](#) and [McAfee](#) also offer them.
- ✍ Finally, monitor your monthly credit card and bank statements for suspicious activity, and get a free credit report every year at annualcreditreport.com to review for any discrepancies.



Ody Norkin outside bombed-out homes in Irpin, near Kyiv.

Humanitarian Mission to Ukraine Inspires Many

As we reported in our [E-News of December 2022](#), the efforts of Michigan Flyer's VP Ody Norkin to help ease the suffering of people in Ukraine have inspired hundreds of people, businesses and organizations to get involved.

Shortly after Russia began its brutal invasion of Ukraine the previous February, Ody had learned through the Jewish Federation of Greater Lansing that ambulances were desperately needed to transport elderly and infirm refugees out of harm's way. So, in

March 2022 he made it his personal mission to buy, refurbish, and deliver an ambulance there. (See our [May 2022](#) and [June 2022 E-News](#)).

Now one year later—having made four trips to the war-torn region—he has helped to deliver four fully equipped, trauma-level ambulances, plus a passenger van, and a shipping container loaded with medical

equipment and supplies.



humanitarian crisis, even small donations can make a world of difference. If you'd like to pitch in, you can do so online here: <https://bit.ly/3YzIPsQ>.

"Can you believe the amazing generosity?" he asks, holding up a \$5,000 check from a woman in Williamston, Mich. That's on top of more than \$150,000 in donations so far from a multitude of sources.

And the humanitarian mission is ongoing, as explained in a recent, in-depth [Lansing City Pulse cover story](#).

"Though I didn't speak the language or have the medical skills that are sorely needed there—since I'm just a transportation guy—I still had to try and help," Ody reflects. "A fundamental part of my Jewish religion is *tikkun olam*. It means heal the world. So the ambulances and medical supplies we provide are intended to help people of any faith or no faith at all."

Providing emergency fire and rescue equipment is next on the list of needs. Amid the massive, ongoing



Airfares for Summer Vacation

If you want the best deal on summer air travel, now is the time to start planning. Using [Skyscanner.com](#), we spot-checked prices for roundtrips originating at Detroit Metro Airport (DTW) on Sunday, June 18, and returning on Saturday, July 8. (Among other things, this two-week stretch includes an opportunity to enjoy the [best July 4th fireworks display in just about any state](#), including the famous pyrotechnics in Atlanta, Boston, Houston, New York City, Philadelphia, or Washington D.C.) Among our search criteria: Flights had to be

nonstop in each direction, and the return had to arrive at DTW in time for passengers to catch our last run at 8:15 p.m./8:30 p.m. to Ann Arbor, Brighton, and East Lansing.

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

Minneapolis, MN (MSP) SunCountry \$163
Atlanta, GA (ATL) Frontier/Spirit \$167
Boston, MA (BOS) Delta \$228
Chicago, IL (MDW) Delta \$228
Washington, DC (BWI) Delta \$228
Austin, TX (AUS) Spirit \$230
Nashville, TN (BNA) Delta \$239
New York, NY (LGA) Spirit \$244
St. Louis, MO (STL) Delta \$270
Louisville, KY (SDF) SkyWest/Delta \$298
Portland, ME (PWM) Delta \$298
Providence, RI (PVD) Delta \$298
Orlando, FL (MCO) Spirit/Frontier \$303
Traverse City, MI (TVC) Delta \$303
Tampa, FL (TPA) Spirit \$304
Indianapolis, IN (IND) Delta \$308
Fort Lauderdale, FL (FLL) Spirit \$312
Philadelphia, PA (PHL) Spirit \$332
Myrtle Beach, SC (MYR) Spirit \$336
Hartford, CT (BDL) Delta \$338
Charlotte, NC (CLT) Delta \$347
Madison, WI (MSN) Delta \$348
Richmond, VA (RIC) Delta \$348

Phoenix, AZ (PHX) Frontier \$353
Los Angeles, CA (LAX) Spirit \$346
Las Vegas, NV (LAS) Frontier \$349
Houston, TX (IAH) Spirit/United \$371
New Orleans, LA (MSY) Delta \$388
San Antonio, TX (SAT) Delta \$388
Greenville, SC (GSP) Delta \$398
Des Moines, IA (DSM) Endeavor/Delta \$408
Durham, NC (RDU) Delta \$408
Kansas City, MO (MCI) Delta \$408
Denver, CO (DEN) Delta \$417
Omaha, NE (OMA) SkyWest/Delta \$418
Dallas, TX (DFW) Spirit \$428
Toronto, CAN (YYZ) Air Canada or United \$437
Montreal, CAN (YUL) Air Canada or United \$480
Cancun, MEX (CUN) Spirit \$485
Seattle, WA (SEA) Delta \$548
San Francisco, CA (SFO) Delta \$628
Burlington, VT (BTV) Delta \$638
Salt Lake City, UT (SLC) Delta \$703
Reykjavik, ICE (KEF) Delta \$1,234
Frankfurt, GER (FRA) Delta \$1,292
Paris, FRA (CDG) Air France/Delta \$1,682



Handy Tools for Savvy Travelers

- [Change Your Flyer or D2A2 Reservations in Two Steps](#)
- [Know How to Find Us at DTW's McNamara Terminal](#)
- [Invest in Travel Insurance for Peace of Mind](#)
- [Download Our Free App to Track Your Bus in Real Time](#)

Top Coming Events—We Can Get You There!

East Lansing

[TINA—The Tina Turner Musical](#)

An uplifting comeback story like no other, TINA the musical is about the inspiring journey of a woman who broke barriers and became the Queen of Rock n' Roll. One of the world's best-selling artists of all time, Tina Turner won 12 Grammys® and her live shows were seen by millions. The current U.S. tour of the musical stars Naomi Rodgers and Zurin Villanueva in the title role. Featuring Tina's much loved songs, the musical was written by Pulitzer Prize® winning playwright Katori Hall and directed by the internationally acclaimed Phyllida Lloyd.

The New York Times cheered, "I've rarely heard an audience with this mighty a roar," and the Daily Beast declared, "Prepare to be ecstatically blown away. It's a miracle the roof hasn't taken flight to space." Catch one of eight performances between Tuesday, April 18, and Sunday, April 23, at the Wharton Center for Performing Arts, 750 E. Shaw Ln., on the Michigan State University campus in East Lansing. [Tickets \\$29-\\$95.](#)



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



Ann Arbor

61st Ann Arbor Film Festival

The oldest avant-garde and experimental film festival in North America, founded in 1963, the Ann Arbor Film Festival is Internationally recognized as a premiere forum for independent filmmakers and artists. The six-day event engages audiences with remarkable cinematic experiences. It includes more than 180 films of all genres, including experimental, animation, documentary, fiction, and performance-based works. Screenings times vary throughout each day from March 21 through March 26 ([see the schedule here](#).) It's at the Michigan Theater, 603 E. Liberty Street, Ann Arbor. [Tickets are available](#) for both in-person (\$8-\$12) and online screenings daily. [Full festival passes are \\$60-\\$150](#).

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

Brighton

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://visitlivingstoncounty.com/events/>.



Detroit

Bruce Springsteen and The E Street Band

The 2023 international tour by the legendary Boss and his band comes to Little Caesars Arena, 2645 Woodward Ave., Detroit, on Wednesday, March 29, at 7:30 p.m. [Tickets \\$125-\\$399+](#). This event is almost sure to sell out quickly, so act fast if you want to attend. Their most recent studio album, 2020's "Letter To You," marked their first live recording together in decades and debuted at #1 in 11 countries.

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 this event. Little Caesar's Arena is about a half-mile walk from D2A2's stop at 1508 Park Ave. (in Grand Circus Park) in Detroit.

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

Please, Help Others by Reviewing Us Online

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



Professional Drivers Wanted

Indian Trails, Inc.—which staffs Michigan Flyer with professional drivers—is accepting applications for full-time motorcoach drivers. These positions pay a **starting** hourly rate of \$21.42, provide a 6-week PAID training program leading to a Commercial Drivers License, and operate 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

Also important, Indian Trails truly appreciates the hard work of its staff members—it's a 113-year-old, family-run company with old-fashioned values like fairness, honesty, teamwork, and service excellence.

We encourage anyone, including those with no commercial driving experience, to apply. 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 and apply here.](#)



Happy Earth Day!

Amazingly, just over 50 years ago, it was perfectly legal for a factory to belch toxic smoke into the air or dump poisonous waste into a stream! Thankfully, that began to change after the first [Earth Day](#) on April 22, 1970, which drew millions of people 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 a billion people in countries worldwide will participate in Earth Day in hopes of

preventing climate change disasters and promoting environmental sustainability. While government and corporations can help, it's equally important for individuals to invest in our planet personally. For example, you could plant trees, reduce plastic pollution, redouble your recycling efforts, or ...

Simply Travel Smarter

Greenhouse gases are a [major threat to our planet](#), and 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: Just by riding with us, you can make a difference, and might even help save an ice cap or glacier. 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 oil.

In fact, the Union of Concerned Scientists [confirms that motorcoaches are the greenest travel option of all](#) compared with planes, trains, and automobiles.

**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



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