

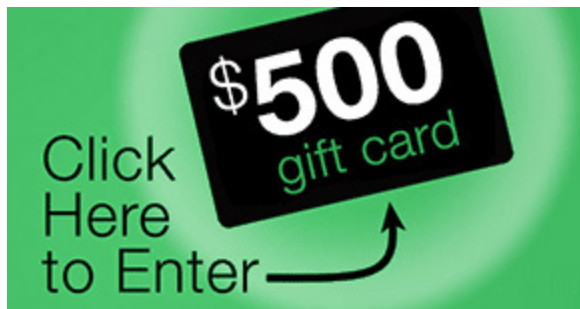


MICHIGAN'S PREMIER MOTORCOACH CONNECTION
BETWEEN EAST LANSING, ANN ARBOR,
BRIGHTON & DETROIT METRO AIRPORT



e-news

MAY 2024



Last Chance to Win a \$500 Prize: May 22 Essay Contest Deadline!

Our latest "Great Connections" essay contest is your chance to win a \$500 gift card Top Prize, or one of five \$100 gift card Runner-up Prizes! To enter, just tell a great—but true—story about how Michigan Flyer helped to connect you with a special person, place or adventure. 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.

Simply submit your story of up to 300 words [here at SurveyMonkey](#) no later than May 22, 2024. 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!

Meet Janine Ginderske, Michigan Flyer's New Office Manager

Since she first walked into the Michigan Flyer office on March 18, Janine Ginderske has been taking copious notes from Diane Moore and Rachel Norkin in preparation for her new role as office manager.

Both Diane and Rachel have been with the Flyer since its beginning in 2006, and are retiring this week. [[See the salute to them in our April E-News.](#)] They've been instrumental to the Flyer's success as the transport



Janine Ginderske

option of choice for countless mid-Michigan residents and visitors traveling between East Lansing, Brighton, Ann Arbor, and Detroit Metropolitan Airport.



Indian Trails drivers John and George Ford, Janine's great- and great-great-grandfathers

Happily, there's no one better suited than Janine to take over management of the Flyer office. The bus transportation business is practically in her DNA. Her mother is Indian Trails Administrative Assistant Lisa Ginderske, her father worked in maintenance, her great- and great-great-grandfathers were Indian Trails bus drivers, and a second cousin is currently a driver.

Janine, an Owosso native, has her own past experience with Indian Trails, our parent company: "I started walking over to the office when I was in middle school, and I'd sit in the breakroom to do my homework. Eventually, the traffic director at the time asked, 'Can I put her to work?'"

She started by assisting a few hours a week with interline bus ticketing and billing at age 14 or so, and later in other positions as part of her high school's cooperative work experience curriculum. In 2010, Janine also helped her mother create decade-by-decade posters to display at Indian Trails headquarters in celebration of the company's 100th anniversary.



Lisa and Janine Ginderske

Heading Off and Coming Back

After high school, Janine attended Flint's Mott Community College, and then Central Michigan University in Mt. Pleasant, where she earned a business degree. Recently, while working in Lansing, she heard about the upcoming Flyer vacancy and decided to apply.

In her new job, Janine's duties include customer service, answering phone calls and emails from passengers, helping them with scheduling and ticketing for their destinations, assisting drivers by helping to board passengers, load luggage, and more.

Two months in, Janine is enjoying the job and the interaction with customers. "Indian Trails has always been like my second home, so it's nice to be back in the family at the Flyer," she says. "Many of our customers seem surprised when an actual person answers their calls. So I get a lot of thanks for the help I give them. They're so appreciative of the service we offer."

Janine also enjoys meeting and working with our drivers. “They’re great and so friendly, like everyone here. When I worked at Indian Trails before, I never interacted with the drivers, so I appreciate getting to know them now.”



Nick Wallace, baby Mazie, and Janine

Most recently, she helped a driver notify passengers on her route that there would be a delay because a wild turkey flew into the windshield of her bus, shattering it. “All the passengers were safe,” she notes. “We just had to bring in a back-up bus to carry them the rest of the way. It was most unusual, to say the least.”

Besides tackling a new job, Janine is also finalizing details for her upcoming wedding in June to fiancé Nick Wallace, who proposed to her while on a trip to Ireland. The two are proud parents of five-month-old Mazie, who may someday follow family tradition: “She’s already visited the office a couple times,” says Janine.



Travel Alerts

D2A2 Express Bus Expands Summer Service, Offers Cheap Rides for Commuters

The popular [The D2A2 Express Bus](#) that makes frequent daily runs between Ann Arbor’s Blake Transit Center (BTC) and Detroit’s Grand Circus Park will soon be adding a “midnight summer run” from Detroit to Ann Arbor. While the usual last run is at 11 p.m., starting Memorial Day weekend (Friday, Saturday and Sunday), and then every Friday and Saturday night through

Labor Day weekend, the added run will depart at 11:55 p.m. This gives visitors a bit more time to enjoy the nighttime attractions of Downtown Detroit.

And there’s more good news: Folks who commute frequently between Detroit and Ann Arbor on D2A2 buses can save a lot by buying 50 one-way rides in advance with a \$100 passbook. That’s just \$2 per ride for use on any D2A2 scheduled run! [Details here.](#)

Airlines to Offer Automatic Refunds for Flight Delays and Lost Bags

Starting June 25, passengers who experience airline delays or lost luggage will be able to get quicker cash refunds thanks to [a new rule from the U.S. Department of Transportation](#). You could qualify for a refund if ...

Your domestic flight is delayed by three hours or more, or your international flight is delayed by six hours or more.

Your departure or arrival airport is different from the one specified on the itinerary you purchased.

The number of connections or plane changes is increased.

You’re downgraded to a lower class of service.

You pay for a service like WiFi, seat selection, or inflight entertainment and the airline does not provide it.



//// The new DOT rule requires that refunds be made within seven business days for credit card payments and within 20 calendar days for other forms of payments, such as travel credits, airline miles or gift cards. Note that if you accept a credit or voucher, you'll lose the right to an automatic refund. Also, refunds must also be for the full amount of the ticket purchase price—including taxes and fees—but minus the value of any of transportation already received. [See complete details here.](#)



Safety Precautions for Traveling Abroad

If you're planning a trip to a foreign country, be sure to check the U.S. State Dept.'s [Travel Advisories](#). They rate the safety risk of visiting each country by levels ranging from "1. Exercise Normal Precautions" to "4. Do Not Travel."

Currently, 19 countries are listed as Level 4. Three more—China, Mexico, as well as Israel, the West Bank and Gaza—are listed as "Other," meaning some areas within them are Level 4. For example, the State Dept. cautions travelers to avoid Mainland China due to the "arbitrary enforcement of local laws, including ... the risk of wrongful detentions."

Similarly, while Mexico is one of the most popular destinations for Americans, the State Dept. notes that "violent crime—such as homicide, kidnapping, carjacking, and robbery—is widespread and common." So, it [classifies many areas there](#) as Level 4.

But just knowing about potential trouble spots is not enough to keep you safe. To be better prepared, review the State Dept.'s extensive [Travelers Checklist](#), and take action on any applicable items before going abroad.

Top Coming Events—We Can Get You There!

East Lansing

[Bluey's Big Play](#)

When Dad feels like a little bit of Sunday afternoon time out, Bluey and Bingo have other plans! Join them as they pull out all of the games and cleverness at their disposal to get Dad off that bean bag. Featuring brilliantly created puppets, Bluey's Big Play is a brand-new theatrical adaptation of the Emmy® award-winning children's television series, with an original story by Bluey creator Joe Brumm, and new music by Bluey composer, Joff Bush. The Guardian calls it "A glorious celebration of everything you love about the show."



✍ This 50-minute production is sure to delight children of all ages. It will be performed live at 6 p.m. on Tuesday and Wednesday, May 28 and 29, at the Wharton Center for Performing Arts, 750 E. Shaw Ln., on the Michigan State University campus in East Lansing. [Tickets \\$27-\\$57 plus fee](#), or \$122 for the VIP Experience.

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



Ann Arbor

✍ [Yo-Yo Ma and Kayhan Kalhor with Orchestra of the Americas](#)

The University Musical Society hosts a special project and performance with renowned cellist Yo-Yo Ma, composer and kamancheh (spiked fiddle) virtuoso Kayhan Kalhor, and the Orchestra of the Americas. A week of on-campus rehearsal by the ensemble will culminate in this public performance of Kalhor's new Double Concerto for rehearsal Cello and Kamancheh, which will have its world premiere in Hamburg, Germany, next year. This concert will also feature additional works performed by the orchestra, comprised of 60 university-level musicians from across the Americas. This unique performance begins at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, June 11, at U-M Hill Auditorium, 825 N. University Ave., Ann Arbor. While the event is already sold out, you can [sign up here in case tickets become available](#).



✍ [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 June 14-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](#).

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

[Kensington Art Fair](#)

The annual Memorial Day Weekend Art Fair is back from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday, May 25 and 26, as well as from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Monday, May 27. You can join the festivities at Kensington



Metropark's Maple Beach, 4570 Huron River Pkwy., Milford. That's about a 20-minute drive east on I-96 from Michigan Flyer's location at the Brighton Meijer.

The fair features the works of more than 100 juried artists from across the country, as well as live art demonstrations, hands-on activities for kids, and a host of food trucks to satisfy hunger pangs. Admission is free for individuals but a Metroparks vehicle pass is required (\$10 daily at the toll booth, with annual pass options available).

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://visitolivingstoncounty.com/events/>.



Detroit

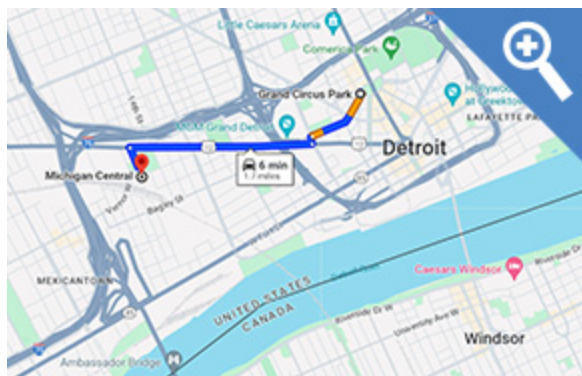
Michigan Central OPEN

You're invited to join in the 10-day party—beginning June 6—as the Detroit community celebrates the long-awaited renovation and reopening of the historic Michigan Central Station.

Michigan Central Station opened as a train terminal in 1914, designed by the same architects who helped to create New York City's Grand Central Station. But train travel declined over the years, and Michigan Central closed in 1988. The abandoned site eventually became downright dilapidated.

But then, led by Executive Chair Bill Ford (great-grandson of Henry Ford), the Ford Motor Co. acquired the building in 2018 and began a multimillion-dollar transformation. In two years, a former factory nearby became the home of Ford's electric vehicle and autonomous vehicle business teams. Now the area has become a 30-acre technology and cultural hub called the Michigan Central Innovation District.

From June 6-16, Michigan Central will host a public open house, offering a look inside the Station's historic ground floor with a range of exhibits, entertainment, and art. Starting May 21, you can get free tickets at MichiganCentral.com.



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 two miles of the Michigan Central celebrations.

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



Sample Fares for European Getaways

If you're dreaming of a European vacation this fall, now is the time to start making it a reality. The sooner you plan your adventure, the less expensive your airline tickets are apt to be. Using [Skyscanner.com](https://www.skyscanner.com), we spot-checked prices for roundtrips originating at Detroit Metro Airport (DTW) on Friday, Oct. 4, and returning on Sunday, Oct. 13. Among our search criteria: Flights had to be no more than one stop or plane change in each direction, any layover between flights had to be fairly brief, and the return flight had to arrive at DTW in time

for passengers to catch our last run at 9:45 or 10 p.m. to Ann Arbor, Brighton and East Lansing.

NOTE: Lower prices than these—often by a few hundred dollars—are available for anyone who is flexible about the dates of travel, willing to change planes more than once in each direction, or doesn't mind a long layover. For example, Turkish Airlines offers many roundtrips to Europe at roughly half the cost of Delta, though the itinerary in one or both directions typically involves a layover of 12 hours or so in Istanbul. Our sample economy roundtrip fares include taxes but not necessarily baggage or other "extras."

London, GBR (LHR) American \$697	Tirana, ALB (TIA) Lufthansa \$1,156
Reykjavik, ISL (KEF) Icelandair \$779	Athens, GRC (ATH) Air Canada \$1,160
Copenhagen, DNK (CPH) Delta \$786	Geneva, CHE (GVA) Lufthansa \$1,161
Vienna, AUT (VIE) Air Canada \$867	Luxembourg, LUX (LUX) Air France/KLM \$1,170
Stockholm, SWE (ARN) KLM/Delta \$897	Madrid, ESP (MAD) Air France/Delta \$1,172
Dublin, IRL (DUB) American \$920	Budapest, HUN (BUD) Air France \$1,186
Bucharest, ROU (OTP) Air France/Delta \$934	Brussels, BEL (BRU) Air France/KLM \$1,189
Lisbon, PRT (LIS) Air Canada \$1,013	Warsaw, POL (WAW) Delta \$1,229
Glasgow, GBR (GLA) Lufthansa \$1,060	Barcelona, ESP (BCN) Delta \$1,269
Venice, ITA (VCE) Delta \$1,071	Paris, FRA (CDG) KLM/Air France/Delta \$1,284
Helsinki, FIN (HEL) American \$1,087	Berlin, DEU (BER) Delta/Air France \$1,310
Milan, ITA (MXP) Delta \$1,092	Amsterdam, NLD (AMS) KLM/Delta \$1,337
Frankfurt, DEU (FRA) KLM/Delta \$1,144	Rome, ITA (FCO) Air France/KLM/Delta \$1,359
Oslo, NOR (OSL) Air France \$1,148	Naples, ITA (NAP) Delta \$1,361



Tips for Smarter Travel

- ✍ [Easily Change Your Own Michigan Flyer Reservations at this Link](#)
- ✍ [Where's Your Bus? Find Out with Our Real-Time Tracker](#)

Bus Drivers Wanted

No experience necessary! 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 \$22.28,



provide a 6-week PAID training program leading to a Commercial Driver's License, and operate Michigan's newest and largest fleet of motorcoaches. Among other benefits, full-time drivers 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

Worth noting, too, drivers with the highest seniority currently earn \$32.76 an hour. Indian Trails truly appreciates the hard work of its staff members—it's a 114-year-old, family-run company with old-fashioned values like fairness, honesty, teamwork, and service excellence. [Click here to learn more or apply.](#)



Customer Comment

"Always a great experience! They recently added the early AM/late PM schedules (to and from DTW respectively), and these worked PERFECT for me (as in no need to stay at a hotel near DTW anymore). I've been using MI Flyer for 5 years (at least a couple times a year) and never have an issue—always on time, always a comfortable, quiet and reliable ride. Only during 'peak' semester times at MSU/U-M have the buses been full. Recommend without hesitation!"

—T. Ir., St. Petersburg, Russia

Please, Help Others by Reviewing Us Online

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



Have a Blessed Memorial Day, and Happy Father's Day, Juneteenth & Summer!

On May 27th—Memorial Day—We Honor Those Who Gave Their Lives in Our Armed Forces

Originally called Decoration Day in 1868, it began as a day of remembrance, when the graves of 620,000 people killed during the Civil War were decorated at Arlington National Cemetery. Both Confederate and Union soldiers are buried there. At the turn of the century it was renamed Memorial Day. In 1971, a federal law designated its observance on the last Monday in May, and extended the honor to all soldiers who died in



✍ American wars. Today, the national holiday still begins at Arlington with the laying of a wreath on the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier and the decoration of each grave with an American flag.



✍ On June 16th—the Third Sunday of the Month—We Celebrate Father's Day

In 1910, a woman named Sonora Smart Dodd—one of six children raised by a widower—staged a successful campaign to establish a Father's Day in Washington state. However, it was not until 1966 that President Lyndon Johnson signed an executive order that Father's Day be celebrated on the third Sunday in June. In 1972, President Richard Nixon issued a proclamation making it a national holiday.



✍ On June 19th—a Wednesday in 2024—We Celebrate a New Independence Day

Juneteenth—our newest national holiday—was signed into law by President Joe Biden in 2021. It establishes June 19th as a federal holiday celebrating the end of slavery in America in 1865. While President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation on Jan. 1, 1863, it was not until June 19, 1865, that General Gordon Granger rode into Galveston, Texas, with his troops and freed the last of the slaves. The formal end of slavery was marked by ratification of the 13th Amendment to the Constitution on Dec. 6, 1865.



✍ On June 20—a Thursday—summer 2024 begins in the Northern Hemisphere.

Astronomically speaking, this is when the summer solstice occurs, giving the northern half of the Earth the longest day (and shortest night) of the year. In the Southern Hemisphere, it's the opposite: the June solstice marks the start of winter, when the Sun is at its lowest point in the sky.

Why Drive?

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



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www.michiganflyer.com



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